DEPARTMENT OF

Environment and Conservation (NSW)

REPORT 2004-05









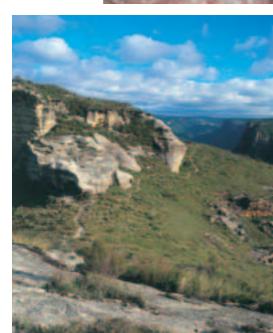












VISION

A healthy environment cared for and enjoyed by the whole community and sustained for future generations



The Hon. Bob Debus Minister for the Environment Parliament House Macquarie Street Sydney

Dear Minister

It is my pleasure to forward to you for presentation to the New South Wales Parliament the second Annual Report of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), covering the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.

The DEC Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act* 1985, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act* 1984 and the *Public Finance and Audit Act* 1983. DEC consolidated financial statements received an unqualified opinion from the Auditor General.

Yours sincerely

LISA CORBYN Director General

lisa Corbyn

The images on the front cover reflect the nine strategic focus areas of DEC's corporate plan 2004–06 – see pages 8–11 for more information

From top to bottom, left to right: Evolving images/DEC; K. Stepnal/DEC; J. Nobes/DEC; DEC; DEC; DEC; DEC.

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Overview

Our vision

A healthy environment cared for and enjoyed by the whole community and sustained for future generations

Our roles

- We manage natural and cultural heritage and deliver programs to assist in conservation and environmental protection.
- We build knowledge, tools and policy frameworks to inform and improve decision-making by government and others.
- We influence behaviour throughout the community to help protect the environment.
- We regulate activities to conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage and protect the environment.

Our approaches

- We influence the community's decision making, including economic decisions, by providing up-to-date science and knowledge to improve the environment.
- We regulate activities according to the risk they pose to the environment, human health or Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- We work with our partners in all spheres of government, business and the community to develop and deliver environmental and conservation solutions.
- We strive for excellence in our management of natural and cultural heritage.
- We motivate and support people to be environmentally responsible and inspire new generations to learn more about conservation and the environment.
- We contribute to public debate about solutions to environmental and conservation problems.
- We respect the special relationship Aboriginal peoples have with the landscape and seek to incorporate their knowledge, insights and involvement in our conservation efforts.

Our values

As individual staff, work teams and as a department we seek to:

Protect the environment

We are strongly committed to protecting the environment.

Respect Aboriginal culture and heritage

We respect Aboriginal knowledge and culture, both traditional and contemporary, and encourage and support the involvement of Aboriginal peoples in our work.

Act with integrity

We are ethical, impartial and honest.

Be transparent

We are open, accessible and accountable to the community and each other.

Act professionally

We treat our colleagues, our many external partners and other members of the community with respect. We base our decisions on facts, objective standards and analysis, consistent with community values. We value our diversity of ideas and skills as the basis of selecting the best approach. Once a decision is made, we make a commitment to delivering that decision.

Work collaboratively

We collaborate with our colleagues and our external partners to deliver our goals.

Be innovative

We foster creative and inspirational thinking, and encourage learning and improvement.



Director General's review

For all of us at the Department of Environment and Conservation, 2004–05 has been a year of integration, representing the first full year of operation as one larger department. It has also been a year of reform and delivery, and while this can be a difficult blend of outcomes, it is a testament to the commitment of everyone involved that we have achieved so much. To do this, we have been able to capitalise on the amazing skills and determination of the people from the formative agencies, even at a time when substantial savings needed to be realised. The year has had its challenges, but has reinforced the dedication of the Department to service delivery and to working in partnership with others.

Integration

This year we took a systematic approach to analysing and defining our corporate identity and to considering the detailed structures and placement of staff in all divisions. Most of the detailed structures within DEC were finalised this year, and at 30 June 2005 the transition phase was nearing completion. We have new corporate governance, accountability and occupational health and safety frameworks in place. We are proud that we were benchmarked by the Premier's and Commerce departments' review of corporate services as among the best in the public service.

Reform

We achieved significant reforms this year, both in environment and conservation and in our administration. The Threatened Species Legislation Amendment Act 2004, which Parliament passed in November 2004, is a tangible example of reform that links to the NSW Government's new approach to natural resources management. DEC has been a major contributor to the new scientific underpinnings and policy approaches toward protection of biodiversity and threatened species in natural resource management and planning. Wetlands have received special attention through DEC's Wetland Initiative and Recovery Plan, which has brought people together from across the Department in recognition of the significant decline in coastal and inland wetland values. Through our work with communities and other departments, we now have a NSW Wetland Policy and project funding to benefit the Macquarie Marshes and the Gwydir and coastal wetlands.

We have set in train new strategic frameworks to improve the national parks system, with the development of the Protected Area Establishment Strategy for building the reserve system in NSW, progressing a Future Directions Statement for Protected Areas, publishing a new comprehensive and frank State of the Parks report and consulting on the draft of Living Parks: a sustainable visitation plan.

We have also capitalised on the successful Cleaner Industries Partnership Program in building a new approach to sustainability compacts with industry.

Delivery

We have maintained and even bolstered our regulatory credibility across the broader array of programs, even slightly increasing the number and success rate of prosecutions and seeking new environmental service orders to improve the environment. Significant breakthroughs have come in the cleanup of contaminated sites as a result of DEC's strong regulation, with prominent examples at Orica's site at Botany Bay and the old BHP site at Newcastle.

Most impressive has been our collaborative work with Aboriginal communities on co-management and repatriation. In July 2004 over seven years of committed work resulted in the Mt Grenville Historic Site, an Aboriginal rock art site near Cobar, being returned to its people and a board of management appointed so that DEC and Ngiyampaa people can jointly manage the site. In 2004–05, 40 Aboriginal ancestral remains and cultural material were returned to Aboriginal communities across NSW and the repatriation program continues with vigour.

Of note and a major achievement this year was the delivery of substantial budget savings which demonstrates DEC's commitment to responsible and accountable financial management.

As ever it takes many people to help us along the way and to keep us on track. The Board of the Environment Protection Authority, the NPWS Advisory Council, and many advisory and audit committees, and the Board of Trustees of the Botanic Gardens Trust all play a constructive role in providing direction and advice to our environment and conservation programs and have maintained their positive, constructive and active engagement with DEC.

I again express my admiration and thanks to the Minister for the Environment, Bob Debus, who has unparalleled energy for and dedication to the environment and is an inspiration to us all. We feel very honoured to have him remain the Minister for the Environment.

Lisa Corbyn **Director General**

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EPA Board



Back row: Judy Henderson, Berenice Carrington, Tony Wright, Bob Junor Centre row: John Keniry, David Harley, Gerry Bates Front row: Peter Prineas, Lisa Corbyn, Colleen Watts

Chairman's report

The past year has brought fresh challenges for the EPA Board as it continues its role in protecting the environment and supporting the NSW Government and the community.

To ensure the most effective input to policy debate, the Board formulated a strategic agenda that identified five major themes for consideration. These included water, environmental science, air, waste and contaminated sites. In addition to its focus areas, the Board also considered issues including regulatory reforms, chemicals and hazardous substances, community education, regulation of pesticides use, and counter-terrorism and emergency incident response. The Board has provided DEC with important feedback for policy development and program implementation based on its expertise in local government, regional issues, environmental policy and law, industry and science.

Members of the Board have an important role to play in bringing issues of environmental significance into prominent focus for the NSW Government and the community. In keeping with this role, this year the EPA Board has been active year in highlighting the issue of air quality in and

around Sydney's road tunnels. The transportation of hazardous materials, which can present a significant risk of harm to the environment when a transport incident occurs, is also of particular concern to the EPA Board.

The Minister for the Environment attended the EPA Board's November meeting in 2004 for discussion on the EPA Board's strategic role and forward agenda. Key issues discussed included the gains to environmental management arising from the formation of DEC and emerging issues in relation to sustainability, chemicals, waste, stormwater, air, noise and waste

On behalf of the EPA Board I would like to thank the Minister for his support of the Board's work, the Director General, Lisa Corbyn, and DEC staff for their commitment and dedication in their assistance through quality advice and detailed briefings.

David Harley
Chair

About DEC

Who we are

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is a NSW Government agency with primary responsibility for working with the community to protect and conserve our environment, including our natural and cultural heritage. DEC is within the portfolio of the Minister for the Environment and provides environment protection and conservation advice to government. DEC is responsible for developing policies and programs to conserve our environmental and cultural heritage. DEC implements government regulations and reform initiatives for environmental conservation and is also a significant land manager, responsible for more than seven per cent of New South Wales.

In carrying out our functions DEC staff operate under a number of well-recognised 'brands' and legislative authorities. We have kept the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) logo, as many people strongly associate their experience of the natural environment with our national parks.

In regulatory matters for environment protection, DEC acts under the powers of the statutory Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The independent EPA Board provides policy direction and approves significant prosecutions and

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Total visits to DEC websites

Definition: This indicator measures the total number of visits to DEC's websites, including both staff and external contacts. DEC websites comprise the former EPA and NPWS websites and a new DEC website, which delivers agency-wide information and resources. A 'visit' consists of one or more page views by a single visitor.

Result: This is the first time we have recorded visits to DEC's corporate website in addition to EPA and NPWS sites. The combined number of visits of 3.2 million is over half a million more than the total reported last year for visits to the NPWS and EPA websites, confirming the significant role of DEC's websites in delivering access to extensive information about environmental issues and services to stakeholders and the public.

The most popular pages in 2004–05 were:

- NPWS site: find a park; specific national park pages (Blue Mountains, Royal, Kosciuszko, Ku-ring-gai Chase); native plants and animals; Australian national parks
- DEC and EPA sites: public register; employment; legal and licensing; air quality update; litter; waste.

exemptions under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

Staff of the Botanic Gardens Trust (BGT) are part of DEC, although BGT and its Board of Trustees are responsible separately to the Minister for the Environment. We also administer programs on behalf of the statutory Environmental Trust. Both of these trusts' activities are reported in separate annual reports.

What we do

DEC focuses on delivering 'whole-of-environment' approaches and solutions for priority environmental, natural and cultural heritage issues in NSW.

DEC works towards achieving a clean and healthy environment through its administration of environment protection legislation (Chapter 2). This legislation covers air and water quality, contaminated land, noise control, pesticides, hazardous chemicals, dangerous goods, radiation and waste. The legislation sets out broad-ranging environment protection requirements as well as outlining specific roles for its implementation by agencies and local councils. We use a range of means to achieve compliance with this legislation, including education, economic incentive schemes, regulation, enforcement, and monitoring and reporting.

One of DEC's key roles is the protection and management of Aboriginal sites, objects and places of special significance to Aboriginal peoples (page 42). We also acquire and manage historic places of significance within the reserve system, which we manage for conservation and the enjoyment of the people of NSW (page 52).

DEC is also responsible for conserving protected Australian animals and plants across the state and for managing NSW national parks and reserves (page 49). This involves the continued improvement of the state's world-class reserve system and the identification, protection and management of wilderness.

DEC promotes environmentally sustainable production, resource use and waste management (Chapter 4). This involves the development, coordination and implementation of a range of strategies and programs, including education for industry and the community, and the development of markets for recovered resources and recycled materials.

DEC also conducts programs of social, cultural, environmental and plant monitoring and research.

Our clients and stakeholders

Our clients and stakeholders include:

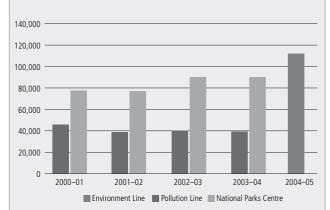
- the NSW Minister for the Environment
- local, state and Commonwealth government agencies
- the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and advisory committees
- community organisations and associations
- · the EPA Board
- Aboriginal communities
- neighbours to parks and reserves
- local government and its associations
- catchment management authorities
- industry and its associations
- tourism associations
- local, state and national conservation and environment groups
- educators
- recreational groups
- volunteers
- the media
- recipients of our scientific data (research organisations, universities, students)
- public users of our information services
- users of parks, reserves and gardens.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of requests for information to Environment Line

Definition: The new DEC Environment Line provides the community with information and advice on environment, conservation and sustainability issues, and is also the main reporting facility for pollution incidents. Requests for information are received via phone calls, letters, faxes, emails and in person.

Requests for information to Environment Line, and the former Pollution Line and National Parks Centre



Interpretation: During 2004–05 DEC restructured its public information services to form 'Environment Line', an integrated service covering all aspects of pollution, the environment, conservation and wildlife. The 116,005 information requests include requests for information about national parks and all other environmental issues but do not include the reporting of pollution incidents (Appendix 13, page 177).

Executive and organisational structure

Our executive

At June 2005, DEC's executive management team comprised our Director General and twelve of our most senior officers from across the organisation.



Back row: Arthur Diakos, Executive Director, Corporate Services Division; Joe Woodward, Executive Director Operations, Environment Protection and Regulation Division; Terry Korn, Director Western, Parks and Wildlife Division; Lisa Corbyn, Director General; Jim Booth, Executive Director, Policy and Science Division; Berenice Carrington, Executive Officer; Tim Entwisle, Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust.

Front row: Jason Ardler, Executive Director, Cultural Heritage Division; Sally Barnes, Executive Director, Strategy, Communication and Governance Division; Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Sustainability Programs Division; Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division; Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division.

Absent: Donna Campbell, Executive Director, Legal Services.

Corporate structure

Director General Lisa Corbyn

Corporate Services Di Executive Director Arthur Diakos	vision	 Human Resources Branch Finance Branch Information Management and Communications Technology Branch Administration and Facilities Branch Service Centre Branch
Cultural Heritage Divi	sion	Policy and Knowledge BranchAboriginal Heritage Operations Branch
Environment Protection Regulation Division Deputy Director General Simon Smith	on and	 Reform and Compliance Branch Specialised Regulation Branch Regional Operations
Parks and Wildlife Div Deputy Director General Tony Fleming	vision	 Reserve and Wildlife Conservation Branch Central Branch Northern Branch Southern Branch Western Branch
Policy and Science Div Executive Director Jim Booth	vision	 Environment and Conservation Policy Branch Environment and Conservation Science Branch
Strategy, Communicate Governance Division Executive Director Sally Barnes	tion and	 Public Affairs Branch Information and Publishing Branch Corporate Governance Branch Ministerial and Parliamentary Services Branch Legal Services Branch Executive Services Branch
Sustainability Program Executive Director Tim Rogers	ns Division	 Frameworks and Product Stewardship Branch Education Services and Community Programs Branch Local Government and Resource Recovery Branch
Botanic Gardens Trust Executive Director Tim Entwisle	t 	 Botanic Gardens and Public Programs Branch Plant Sciences Branch Communications and Marketing Branch

• Finance and Business Services Branch

Performance summary

Our goals and focus areas

In September 2004 we launched the *Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW) Corporate Plan 2004–06*, which forms the basis of this annual report. The plan builds on the successes and achievements of the agencies that formed DEC and recognises the challenges we face for the future. It sets our strategic direction and highlights specific priorities in key areas of our wide-ranging environment and conservation agenda for the two years up to June 2006.

The four primary **goals** of the plan form the backbone of the following chapters.

In each chapter, DEC's achievements for 2004–05 are divided into one or more **strategic focus areas**, and we highlight the key **outcomes** we aim to achieve in those areas.

The plan also identifies 38 **priorities** within the broader scope of DEC's environment and conservation work, which we have reported against at the start of each focus area.

The full plan is available on DEC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Reporting on our performance

DEC reports its performance publicly through its Annual Report. The 26 indicators we are using to report our performance, summarised below, reflect the priorities of DEC and our commitment to on-going programs and partnerships.

The Botanic Gardens Trust has a separate corporate plan and prepares its own separate report.

Our corporate plan priorities for 2004–06 and performance indicators

Performance indicators

- Total visits to DEC websites (page 4)
- Number of requests for information to DEC's Environment Line (page 5)

Goal: Protection of ecological and human health SEE CHAPTER 2



Strategic focus area: A healthier and cleaner environment

Priorities

- Improve approaches to compliance for regulatory activities for cultural heritage, environmental protection and threatened species to ensure the highest risks to the environment are effectively managed and controlled.
- Support the Government's incident and security emergency preparedness so that we are ready to deal with bushfires and biological, chemical and radiological threats and other incidents.
- Develop a science investment plan that recognises the importance of decisions made on a scientific basis and identifies priority areas for environmental science, research and information provision.
- Lead the National Chemicals Working Group to achieve a risk management framework for chemicals, and improved criteria, information and education for adverse chemical impacts.

Performance indicators

- Number of new pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees
- Pollutant Load Indicator for total assessable air and water pollutants from premises licensed under load-based licensing
- Number of prosecutions completed under EPA legislation, percentage successful and value of fines awarded
- Number and value of penalty infringement notices issued by DEC under EPA legislation
- Percentage of time valid air quality data available from DEC monitoring network
- Estimated tonnes of VOC emissions to the Greater Metropolitan Region airshed per summer prevented due to DEC regulation of the fuel industry
- Percentage of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites that comply with Beachwatch swimming water quality guidelines more than 90 per cent of the time
- Number of hazardous material incidents where DEC provided on-site technical or clean-up advice
- Number of regulatory actions under the Contaminated Land Management Act.



Strategic focus area: Community wellbeing improved

Priorities

- Establish and promote new 'liveability' concepts, such as linking improvements in health and air quality and by promoting 'healthy parks and healthy people'.
- Increase the active participation of Aboriginal communities in conservation management, on and off reserved land.
- Complete the development of a NSW odour mitigation policy.
- Develop a noise mitigation policy framework to guide development within the state.

Performance indicators

- Percentage of general terms of approval for Integrated Development Assessment processes issued by DEC to consent authorities within statutory time frames
- Percentage of Environment Line pollution incident reports about issues relating to air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises.

Goal: Conservation of natural and cultural values across the landscape see Chapter 3



Strategic focus area: Biodiversity protected and restored

Priorities:

- Lead the process of reforming NSW threatened species conservation laws, systems and approaches.
- Review, develop and lead implementation of the next stage of the NSW Biodiversity Strategy, 'Living NSW'.
- Provide tools and knowledge to support catchment management authorities and councils in their protection of the natural and cultural values of biodiversity.
- Work to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.
- Develop and implement off-reserve programs and initiatives for conservation as part of building a comprehensive, adequate and representative protected area system.
- Develop and implement a strategy for improved protection of NSW wetland systems.

Performance indicators

- Area of private land in NSW managed by landholders for conservation outcomes in programs managed by DEC (includes voluntary conservation agreements and wildlife refuges)
- Number of threatened species, endangered populations and ecological communities, and key threatening processes for which a recovery and/or threat abatement plan has been prepared or initiated



Strategic focus area: Aboriginal cultural heritage protected

Priorities

- Lead other government agencies in building effective relationships with Aboriginal people and communities to protect cultural heritage and to deliver the Government's Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Action Plan.
- Review legislation and approaches for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Progress the return to Aboriginal communities of ancestral remains, cultural materials and knowledge, including working with Aboriginal communities and the Australian Museum.
- Identify, assess and protect places of significance to Aboriginal peoples in NSW.

Performance indicators

- Number of Aboriginal remains and collections of cultural material held under the National Parks and Wildlife Act repatriated to Aboriginal communities
- Number of Aboriginal place declarations (for sites of Aboriginal cultural significance) made under National Parks and Wildlife Act.



Strategic focus area: Reserve system managed and improved

Priorities

- Develop and implement a strategy to build and finance the reserve system, with emphasis on under-represented areas such as central and western NSW and marine environments.
- Systematically assess the natural and cultural values of the reserve system and botanic gardens.
- Develop and implement an approach that promotes excellence in management of the reserve system, including the State of the Parks program and plan of management review.
- Develop and implement a strategic framework for cultural heritage management and interpretation within the reserve system.

Performance indicators

- Area of land managed by DEC for conservation outcomes
- Number of national parks, historic sites and nature reserves covered by a plan of management or where a draft plan has been on exhibition
- Number of formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for co-management of protected areas
- Number of fire management strategies (adopted and being finalised)
- Number of historic heritage sites where conservation works have been undertaken.



Strategic focus area: Public use of reserve system sustainable

Priorities:

- Develop a policy and strategic planning framework for sustainable and culturally appropriate use of national parks and botanic gardens.
- Put in place a total asset management approach for reserves and botanic gardens.

Performance indicators

• Number of participants in *Discovery* education programs and percentage satisfied.

Goal: Sustainable consumption, production, resource use and waste management see Chapter 4



Strategic focus area: Sustainability reflected in government and business operations

Priorities:

- Actively contribute to the Government's metropolitan and regional planning strategies to promote sustainability principles and environmental protection.
- Guide purchasing and resource use by government agencies towards more sustainable practices.
- Minimise DEC's own environmental impact in terms of energy, water and paper consumption.
- Work with businesses to move them towards sustainable practices.

Performance indicators

Change in waste disposed of to landfill in the Greater Sydney Region under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.



Strategic focus area: Resource conservation improved

Priorities:

- Implement the NSW Waste Avoidance and Recovery Strategy focusing on avoiding and preventing waste, increasing use of renewable and recoverable materials, and reducing roadside and railway litter and illegal dumping.
- Contribute early in the planning process to improve conservation and efficiency in resource use in urban and rural areas e.g. for water.
- Develop a sustainability framework for a more integrated approach to managing environmental issues.

Goal: A credible, efficient and effective organisation SEE CHAPTER 5



Strategic focus area: One integrated DEC

Priorities:

- Build staffing knowledge and accountabilities and the capacity to deliver services across the Department, emphasising conservation, environmental and cultural heritage concepts, values and practices.
- Review and implement the internal Cultural Heritage Change Program and the Government's 'Two Ways Together' plan.
- Establish effective cross-divisional links within DEC.
- Develop and implement new industrial awards for the Department.
- Establish and implement effective integrated corporate support services across the Department, including policies, procedures, systems and infrastructure.
- Set and achieve challenging targets for occupational health and safety.
- Review work priorities to achieve the Department's twoyear budget savings targets while also ensuring manageable workloads for staff.

Performance indicators

- Percentage of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests granted by DEC that provide 80 per cent or more of requested information
- Number and value of reported DEC staff accidents and workers' compensation claims
- Percentage of DEC staff representation for EEO groups.

This overview of the financial performance of DEC's financial operations for 2004–05 should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements and related notes (pages 73 to 136). The report provides separate financial statements for the EPA, the Stormwater Trust and the Waste Fund.

The net cost of services is the cost to the NSW Government of DEC services and is derived by deducting the total retained revenue from total expenses and adding/deducting any loss/gain on the sale of non-current assets (see note 4, page 95). Our operations resulted in total expenses of \$441.35 million, total retained revenue of \$93.67 million, with a net cost of services of \$347.89 million.

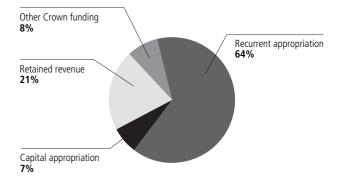
In addition, DEC collected revenue on behalf of the NSW Government amounting to \$149.02 million, which contributed to Crown revenue.

How we use our financial resources

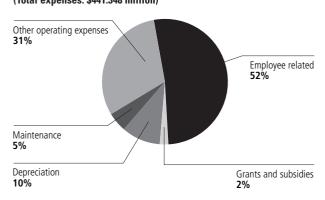
DEC was formed in September 2003. Throughout this financial year, the structure, staffing and resources of the new Department continued to change as the restructure was being finalised.

The following pie charts provide a snapshot of where DEC revenue came from and how it was allocated in 2004–05. The figures in the charts represent the first complete year of the new Department.

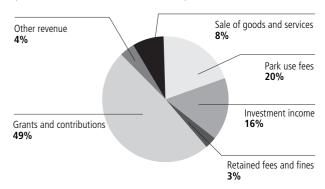
Sources of revenue 2004–05 (Total revenue: \$441.595 million)



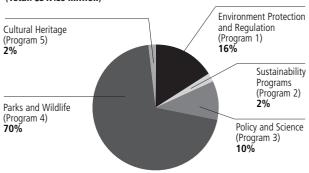
Allocation of total expenses 2004–05 (Total expenses: \$441.348 million)



Sources of retained revenue 2004–05 (Total retained revenue: \$93.667 million)



2004–05 Programs – net cost of services (Total: \$347.89 million)





Protecting ecological and human health

The DEC Corporate Plan 2004–06 identified the following **strategic focus areas** and **outcomes** required to achieve our corporate goal of the 'Protection of ecological and human health'.

Strategic focus areas	Outcomes
A healthier and cleaner environment	Cleaner air, water and land
	Protection of ecological needs and sustainable use of the environment
	Understanding of the public health impacts of contamination, chemical use, waste and radiation
Community wellbeing improved	Landuse decisions provide more 'liveable' and healthy communities by:
	 protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and practices
	 minimising noise, dust, odour and vibration
	promoting environmental health linkages

In this chapter

A healthier and cleaner environment

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06	14
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A healthier and cleaner environment

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Improve approaches to compliance

Improve approaches to compliance for regulatory activities for cultural heritage, environmental protection and threatened species to ensure the highest risks to the environment are effectively managed and controlled.

During 2004–05 DEC worked to focus compliance efforts on high priority areas and progressed related legislation reform. DEC activities included:

- identifying priority environment protection licences to enable a focus on higher risk areas (page 15)
- conducting several compliance campaigns (page 16)
- providing specialised staff training to improve our capacity to undertake compliance activities (page 72)
- reviewing systems, processes and procedures for ensuring compliance with cultural heritage regulation. This regulatory work, including the first successful prosecution under section 90 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, are further discussed in Chapter 3
- integrating audit and enforcement functions for the Threatened Species Licence and the Environment Protection Licence held by Forests NSW to deliver a more coordinated and consistent approach to forestry regulation on public lands (page 16)
- building on and integrating compliance and audit programs as part of the comprehensive approach underpinning DEC environmental compliance program (page 15).

Improvements to environment protection legislation and regulations implemented in 2004–05 include changes to waste regulation (page 25), conclusion of consultation on reforms to the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and a Bill tabled in June 2005. DEC also progressed a range of market-based instruments focused on water quality that demonstrated innovative approaches to environmental and economic improvement (page 23).

NSW Government legislative reforms of the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, which were passed in November 2004, upgraded the enforcement and compliance provisions of the Act and better integrated threatened species conservation with native vegetation reforms to make them less complex and provide increased conservation incentives.

Emergency preparedness

Support the Government's incident and security emergency preparedness so that we are ready to deal with bushfires and biological, chemical and radiological threats and other incidents

During 2004–05 DEC and emergency response agencies participated in NSW Government Counter Terrorism and State Emergency Management meetings and exercises, addressing potential incidents involving biological, chemical and radiological threats.

DEC provided technical and cleanup advice for 279 hazardous materials (Hazmat) incidents, 73 of them on-site (page 27). DEC's Hazmat response now also integrates radiation incident capability.

DEC has worked to improve bushfire preparedness by implementing fire management strategies in affected reserve areas and participating in fire preparedness activities across the state (page 53).

Staff training strategies for emergency preparedness developed this year will be implemented in 2005–06.

Science investment plan

Develop a science investment plan that recognises the importance of decisions made on a scientific basis and identifies priority areas for environmental science, research and information provision

In 2004–05 DEC completed a review of science across its operations and at 30 June was formalising its Science Investment Plan. The plan will link science and research programs across DEC and will inform a research review being undertaken by the Ministry of Science and Medical Review.

National Chemicals Working Group

Lead the National Chemicals Working Group to achieve a risk management framework for chemicals, and improved criteria, information and education for adverse chemical impacts

The National Chemicals Working Group, chaired by the Director General of DEC, is leading the development of a national environmental risk management framework for chemicals on behalf of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council of state and federal environment Ministers (page 26).

Regulating environmental impacts

DEC is responsible for regulating industrial impacts on the environment through a range of compliance schemes including licensing and prosecutions under the powers of the EPA. Our comprehensive approach integrates compliance audit and licence review programs with on-going regulatory activities. In addition to assessing compliance with existing requirements, the approach aims to improve industry environmental performance with reference to best environmental management practices. The approach also involves greater opportunities for external stakeholders to participate during various stages of the process.

DEC takes a risk management approach to environment protection licensing that recognises that regulatory effort, especially within the POEO Act licensing framework, needs to be closely related to the environmental risk associated with a licensed activity. The greater the environmental risk the more controls are exercised through licence conditions, pollution reduction programs (see indicator right), compliance actions, inspections and follow-up of annual return information. At 30 June 2005, DEC had issued 3173 licences under the POEO Act, 174 of them in 2004-05.

DEC has a program of regulatory reforms to simplify and clarify regulatory requirements and strengthen the integrity of the framework so that it delivers better environment protection and resource recovery outcomes.

The Protection of the Environment Operations Bill was tabled in Parliament in June 2005.

■ CASE STUDY

Chemicals environmental compliance

In 2004-05, DEC completed its chemical storage, handling and spill management audits program as part of our comprehensive approach to environmental compliance. Previous audits had identified many instances of non-compliance with storage and handling requirements and a number of recent significant environmental incidents caused by poor management.

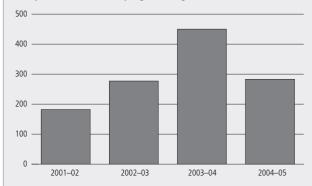
Audits were conducted on 52 scheduled premises across a number of industry sectors and 10 audits were carried out at non-scheduled premises, including several managed by DEC. Joint compliance inspections were also carried out with a selection of councils at premises they regulate.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of new pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees

Definition: This indicator measures the number of new pollution reduction programs (PRPs) negotiated during the year. PRPs are legally enforceable programs negotiated with licensees by DEC. They require changes to works or management practices to bring about environmental improvements within a specified time frame. The conditions of a PRP are attached to a licence. A PRP may be implemented in a series of steps over a number of years with specific conditions attached to each stage.

New pollution reduction programs negotiated with licensees



Interpretation: The total value of PRPs negotiated by DEC for 2004–05 was \$86 million, which makes the total of upgrades negotiated since July 1998 worth approximately \$1.07 billion. Note that this includes the Orica Botany groundwater clean-up notice (\$167 million) issued in 2003–04. The number of PRPs decreased compared with the previous year, but was consistent with long-term average trends. The peak in 2003–04 was due to the large number of PRPs negotiated for rural sewage treatment systems. Over half of the PRPs (60% or 170) addressed water quality issues.

Significant PRPs negotiated during 2004–05 included:

- \$65 million to commission Blue Scope Steel's Port Kembla briquetting plant and to investigate methods to further the reuse, reprocessing or recycling of waste
- 44 PRPs, worth a total of \$1.9 million, with Hunter Water Corporation to reduce the discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage in the Hunter Region
- \$1 million replacement of the boiler at the Carter Holt Harvey timber mill, to improve air quality in Oberon.



DEC staff inspect liquid chemicals during a compliance audit.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Pollutant load indicator for total assessable air and water pollutants from premises licensed under load-based licensing

Definition: The pollutant load indicator (PLI) represents the total pollutant load emitted by all LBL activities for the reporting year, adjusted to reflect the relative harm of the pollutants and the sensitivity of the environment into which they are emitted. It is possible for a pollutant emitted in very large quantities to have a lower impact than another pollutant with relatively small emissions because of differing levels of toxicity and/or the sensitivity of the environments. Fluorides, for example, have a higher pollutant impact than volatile organic compounds, even though their actual pollutant load is lower. The higher the PLI, the more the environmental harm.

Under the LBL scheme, 12 types of air pollutants and 17 categories of water pollutants were reported by licensees and assessed by DEC. Air pollutants were arsenic, lead, fine particles, fluorides, nitrogen oxides, mercury, sulfur oxides, volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide, coarse particles, benzene and benzo(a)pyrene. Water pollutants were total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total phenolics, pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, arsenic, chromium, salt, phosphorus, selenium, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids, nitrogen, oil and grease, zinc, lead, copper and cadmium.

The following presents the total PLIs for air and water pollutants over the last four years of the LBL scheme for which DEC has received complete load data. DEC has not yet received data from all licensees for the 2004–05 period and this data will be updated in 2006. The successful LBL Audit Program (right), has led to some restatement of prior year PLI data where required.

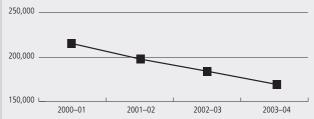
Total assessable air pollutants PLI

The total air PLI trend between 2001–02 and 2002–03 indicated an improvement of 8% in controlling the levels of harm from air pollutants emitted by licensed activities.

In recognition of the growing international concern about the impacts of air pollutants DEC introduced reforms to the LBL scheme, increasing the toxicity weighting for many air pollutants, and effectively increasing the total air PLI by around 50%. As a result the PLI for 2003–04, of 574,760, is not readily comparable to prior years but will be used as the basis for on-going reporting.

Increases to load-based licence fees from this weighting change have created added financial motivation for pollutant reduction.

Total assessable water pollutants PLI



Interpretation for water pollution emissions: The trend indicates an improvement in controlling the levels of harm from water pollutants emitted by licensed activities, with a 22% improvement in the PLI between 2001–02 and 2003–04. Note that the PLIs for individual water pollutants may fluctuate within the total PLI trend.

Load-based licensing scheme

The load-based licensing (LBL) scheme works to reduce pollution by linking industry licence fees to emissions. Pollutant load fees are paid by the state's largest, most potentially polluting activities and are proportional to the quantity and type of pollutants discharged and the conditions of the receiving environment. Significant reductions in pollutant loads have been achieved at premises licensed under the LBL scheme (see indicator, left).

At 30 June 2005, 283 premises were paying fees under the load-based licensing scheme, of which five were added during the year.

Licensees may enter into load-reduction agreements with DEC, allowing for an immediate reduction in LBL fees by committing the licensee to lowering emissions to the environment over the longer term. The money saved can be invested in achieving the planned reductions in emissions. Load reduction agreements usually last up to four years, giving licensees time to introduce improvements to lower their pollutant discharges to an agreed load.

At the end of a successful load reduction agreement period, the agreed load becomes the new load limit on the environment protection licence. DEC has negotiated 26 multi-year load reduction agreements, five completed during 2004–05, preventing 2114 tonnes of pollution per year being discharged into the environment (903 tonnes of air pollutants and 1210 tonnes of water pollutants).

Audit program

In June 2005 DEC completed a three-year program assessing compliance with load based licensing (LBL) requirements. 103 premises were audited, covering all activities for which LBL fees must be paid. We found that although industry was generally attempting to comply with LBL requirements, some non-compliances were noted, ranging from minor administrative issues to important load calculation errors.

The LBL Audit Program has improved licensees' understanding of their requirements, and identified a number of areas where the effectiveness of the LBL scheme could be improved, including amending the Load Calculation Protocol and improving DEC administration of the scheme.

DEC is developing compliance assurance mechanisms to continue to maintain the integrity of the LBL scheme, and the common findings of the audit will be distributed to all licensees to help improve compliance and environmental performance.

Forestry regulation

Forestry activities on public land in NSW are regulated by DEC to protect threatened species and water quality. This is achieved through the setting of best practice conditions within licences issued under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

During 2004–05, DEC licensed or set approval conditions for 202 forestry operations for threatened species protection, 245 for water quality protection in native forests and 217 for water quality protection in plantation forests.

DEC conducted 15 audits to check compliance with threatened species requirements and 11 to check compliance with water quality requirements in native forests. Two audits were conducted in plantation forests for water quality

DEC issued 12 warning letters, requested remediation action over 27 separate follow-up issues and issued two clean-up notices. Forests NSW also pleaded guilty to one charge under section 120 of the POEO Act in the Land and Environment Court and were fined \$30,000 and required to pay DEC's costs.

Prosecutions

DEC can commence a prosecution for environment protection offences under the authority of the EPA and for offences under National Parks and Wildlife legislation. During 2004–05, DEC commenced 185 prosecutions (127 EPA prosecutions and 58 under National Parks and Wildlife legislation) and completed 175 prosecutions (127 EPA and 48 National Parks and Wildlife, see Appendix 8, page 149). The 175 completed prosecutions resulted in:

- 151 convictions
- 21 matters where the offence was proven but a conviction was not recorded
- three acquittals.

Examples of significant cases completed in the Land and Environment Court during 2004–05 are outlined below.

EPA v Stanley James Perry

Mr Perry was fined \$30,000 after pleading guilty to a Tier 1 offence for being a director of a company that negligently disposed of about 3000 tonnes of used tyres in a manner that harmed or was likely to harm the environment. Mr Perry's company had been paid fees totalling \$350,000 for accepting used tyres from tyre retailers and mines. It stored the tyres at a site it leased in Gilgandra. In about June 2001, the company abandoned the tyres and the site. In sentencing, the court took into account the serious fire risk posed by the abandoned tyres. The court declined to order Mr Perry to clean up the tyres, noting his personal and financial circumstances.

EPA v Juan Manuel Obaid

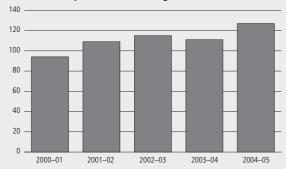
Mr Obaid pleaded guilty to four charges arising out of his involvement in the use of four premises in the Sydney area for the unlawful storage of used tyres. In 2001 and 2002, retailers paid fees totalling \$160,000 for the removal of about 100,000 used tyres, which were taken to the four premises. The court found that the risks created by the stockpiling of large amounts of tyres at all of the premises were potentially catastrophic, given that tyre fires are intensely hot, hard to extinguish, a threat to buildings and neighbours, and can emit injurious fumes. The court fined the defendant a total of \$73,125. The defendant was also ordered to repay clean-up costs of \$17,371 and to remove all tyres remaining at one of the premises.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

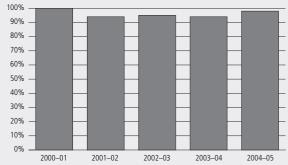
Number of prosecutions completed under EPA legislation, percentage successful and value of fines awarded

Definition: This indicator measures the number of prosecutions completed by DEC under EPA legislation, the proportion that were successful and the resulting value of fines awarded by the Land and Environment or local courts. For prosecutions under National Parks and Wildlife legislation, see Appendix 8, page 154. 'Successful' refers to cases that were proven in court, including cases where DEC won and a penalty was imposed by the court and where DEC's case was proven but no conviction was recorded.

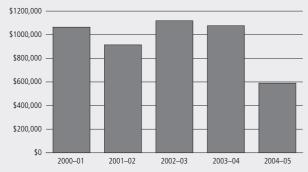
Prosecutions completed under EPA legislation



Percentage of successful prosecutions under EPA legislation



Value of fines in EPA prosecutions



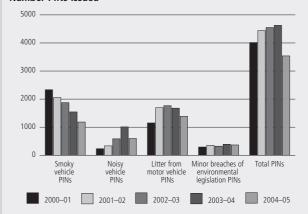
Interpretation: The number of completed prosecutions increased by 16 and the proportion of successful prosecutions increased from 94% to 98% this year. Total fines of about \$600,000 are down from the higher levels of the last four years. This reflects a greater mix of prosecution work undertaken by DEC this year, resulting in an increase in the proportion of charges run in the Local Court rather than the Land and Environment Court. Further, the Land and Environment Court imposed fines of \$70,000 or more in two cases in 2004–05 compared to six such cases in 2003–04. Finally, alternative penalties, such as carrying out a project for the restoration or enhancement of the environment (an environmental service order) or ordering the offender to publish details of the offence, for example in a newspaper, are often also sought instead of, or in addition to, a fine. The value of environmental service orders imposed by the Land and Environment Court rose from \$25,000 in 2003–04 to \$102,000 in 2004–05, partially offsetting the decrease in total EPA fine levels.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

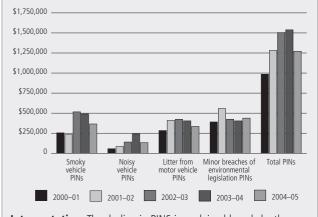
Number and value of penalty infringement notices issued by DEC under EPA legislation

Definition: Penalty infringement notices (PINs) are issued for minor breaches of the EPA legislation administered by DEC, as well as for smoky and noisy vehicles and littering from vehicles. This indicator measures the number of PINs issued and processed by DEC, including the PINs DEC processed and issued on behalf of local councils and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). PINs processed and issued directly by authorised agencies (primarily councils, RTA and the police) are not included in this indicator.

Number PINs issued



Value of PINs issued



Interpretation: The decline in PINS is explained largely by the high number of noisy vehicle PINs issued for 2003–04, when DEC was focusing on noise-related offences. The value of penalty notices for minor breaches of environmental legislation increased by 8%. Also, fewer PINs were referred from other agencies for DEC to issue.

EPA v Bluescope Steel (AIS) Pty Ltd

Bluescope Steel was fined \$70,000 after pleading guilty to one charge of breaching a licence condition at its Port Kembla premises. Maintenance works on the electrical systems at the premises caused a major power outage across the steelworks. There was also a failure in the back-up systems, which resulted in the emission of over 30,000 cubic metres of raw coke oven gas. This gas contained carbon monoxide and smaller quantities of benzene, toluene, ammonia, xylene, hydrogen sulphide and hydrogen cyanide.

EPA v Andrew Evan Thaler

Injunctive action was taken against Mr Thaler in 2002 after it was found that hundreds of lead acid batteries had been unlawfully accepted at his Queanbeyan business premises. The court ordered Mr Thaler not to receive any more batteries at the premises and to lawfully dispose of the batteries already there. He didn't comply with these orders and was charged with contempt. Mr Thaler pleaded guilty and the court fined him \$50,000.

Air quality

Successful controls on air pollution from industry and motor vehicles have reduced the total contribution of these emission sources over the years, although continued emission reductions are necessary. While motor vehicles remain a very significant source for two key pollutants in Sydney (volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, and oxides of nitrogen), the contribution of the commercial and domestic sector has become relatively more important. As a result, in addition to DEC's emphasis on economic incentives and appropriate regulation to reduce industry emissions and on cleaner vehicles and fuels, our pollution reduction efforts are broadening to include emissions from sources such as solvents, service station and petrol refuelling, garden appliances and woodheaters.

DEC estimates that in 2003 the motor vehicle sector was responsible for 38% and the commercial and domestic sector 41% of emissions of the volatile organic compounds that contribute to ozone formation. Industry was responsible for an estimated 40% and the commercial and domestic sectors 42% of particle emissions in Sydney. New inventory data for 2004–05 will be available in 2006. Managing the emissions from the commercial and domestic sector is complicated by the diversity of pollution sources, and the likelihood that regulation may not be as cost-effective to enforce as it has been for industry.

DEC work in this area emphasises progressing the 25-year NSW air quality strategy, Action for Air, providing useful information to the community on achieving air quality goals through an active monitoring and reporting program. DEC is also examining the air quality implications of emerging issues like climate change and is actively contributing, with assistance from the Clean Air Fund (page 19), to the development of appropriate abatement policies and measures.

2004 Clean Air Forum

Clean air forums provide an opportunity to review progress on Action for Air, the NSW Government's 25-year air quality management plan to encourage broad public input on air quality trends and management strategies, and to explore future environmental issues affecting air quality. DEC convened the second triennial forum, focusing on climate change and air quality issues, in November 2004. Nearly 200 people from community groups, industry, academia and local, state and Commonwealth governments attended.

At the forum, the Premier of NSW announced a range of air quality and climate change initiatives including a one-year trial of after-treatment technology to reduce emissions from older diesel vehicles, and banned the purchase of eight-cylinder vehicles for the government fleet.

Standards, monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting on air quality provides essential information to guide environmental policy and operational decisions at local, state and national levels. DEC's air quality monitoring network continues to be the largest in Australia, with 20 stations in the Greater Metropolitan Region (Sydney Metropolitan Region, the Central Coast, the Lower Hunter and the Illawarra). Additional monitoring stations are located in Albury, Bathurst, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga. Most sites measure ozone, oxides of nitrogen and particles as well as visibility. Some sites also monitor carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide.

During the year DEC changed the way it monitors air quality in NSW in response to developments in science and technology. Older style batch monitoring techniques for particles were replaced with the latest continuous monitoring technology and four redundant monitoring stations were closed.

DEC provides daily air quality information to the public, updates a regional pollutant index twice daily on the website, and provides 24-hour air quality summaries and quarterly monitoring reports. DEC also provides annual reports on air quality to the National Environment Protection Council as part of our obligations under the National Environment Protection Measure for Ambient Air Quality.

During 2004–05 work began on an Environment Protection and Heritage Council national air quality standards review. DEC chaired the national working group developing important advice on ground-level ozone standards, which will provide important parameters for the standard-setting process. Consultation is taking place with technical experts and interested community members on issues such as health impacts, exposure patterns, and the achievability of any changes to the current standard.

Air pollution health alerts

DEC and NSW Health launched a new air pollution health alert system in November 2004 to inform the public about days of high air pollution in the Greater Metropolitan Region and possible health impacts. On days when air pollution is

■ CASE STUDY

Biodiesel trials

Two Clean Air Fund-supported biodiesel projects were completed in 2004-05. Camden Council received \$41,690 to undertake a six-month trial to compare the performance of 100% biodiesel (B100) with ultra low sulfur diesel in two of the council's rubbish trucks under normal operating conditions. RTA testing revealed that using B100 achieved reductions in tailpipe emissions for smoke (reduced 79%), particulates (91%), hydrocarbons (68%) and carbon dioxide (4%). No significant difference was recorded for oxides of nitrogen emissions.

Newcastle City Council was funded \$95,000 to introduce a 20% blend of biodiesel (B20) in its 228diesel vehicle fleet. Tests of 12 fleet vehicles showed significant average reductions of smoke (30%) and

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Percentage of time valid air quality data available from DEC monitoring network

Definition: This indicator measures the percentage of time valid data was available to the community from DEC's air quality monitoring network in the Greater Metropolitan Region and four regional cities: Albury, Bathurst, Tamworth and Wagga Wagga. 'Valid' data is data that has been fully quality-assured. The maximum time valid data can be expected from the network is about 95%, because of the need to calibrate data monitoring

Result: The network achieved 95%, the maximum possible level of valid data, following previous years which were close to this level (92% in 2004 and 91% in 2003).

forecast to be high or hazardous, a health alert is issued as part of DEC's normal afternoon regional pollutant index (RPI) hulletin

Health alert messages are tailored for the particular pollutants and forecast levels.

Alert level	RPI
High	≥ 50 for all pollutants
Hazardous	> 75 for ozone or NO₂> 200 for fine particles

Since the system was launched there have been five high alerts and no hazardous alerts. The four ozone alerts were issued for exceedances of standards in the Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure (AAQNEPM). The alert for fine particles was issued for an exceedance of the NSW amenity goal of nine-kilometre visual distance.

Clean Air Fund

The Clean Air Fund, established with funding from the Environmental Trust and administered by DEC, has been instrumental in developing innovative programs to reduce emissions from important smaller sources that cumulatively contribute to air pollution. These include local air improvement programs, reducing emissions from petrol



One of Newcastle City Council's waste trucks powered by 20% biodiesel.

particulate matter (39%). Slight increases in oxides of nitrogen (7.2%) and fuel consumption (3.2%) were consistent with other biodiesel research. Newcastle City Council is now investigating the possibility of converting its entire fleet to 20% biodiesel.

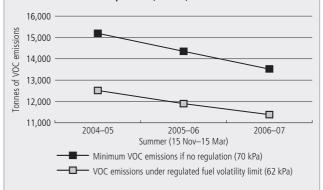
vapour and small engines such as outboard motors. They also include comprehensive work on an air emissions inventory, which will allow more comprehensive and targeted strategies for reducing emissions to be developed.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Estimated tonnes of VOC emissions to the **Greater Metropolitan Region airshed per** summer prevented due to DEC regulation of the fuel industry

Definition: Petrol vapour, containing volatile organic compounds, is one of the major causes of smog in the Greater Metropolitan Region during summer. Lowering volatility reduces fuel evaporation and emissions from petrol vehicles. The summer period is targeted because the warmer temperatures contribute to greater evaporation of petrol. This indicator estimates the reduction in VOC emissions achieved as a result of the amendments in 2004 to the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation, which requires those in the fuel industry to comply with volatility limits set on petrol supplied in the GMR between 15 November and 15 March each year.

Estimated VOC emissions from in the Greater Metropolitan Region in four-month summer periods (tonnes)



Interpretation: The limits in the Regulation, which are the tightest in Australia, commenced in November 2004. The estimate in VOC emissions from the petrol complying with limits is compared with an estimate of the emissions which would have happened if no regulation of petrol volatility had been introduced. The Regulation replaces the voluntary scheme that operated from 1998 to 2002 under a memorandum of understanding entered into with some industry operators. The regulated limits are expected to lead to further falls in VOC emissions in the GMR in summertime.

■ CASE STUDY

Stage two vapour recovery

In addition to reducing fuel volatility (see performance indicator, above) DEC, in partnership with Blacktown and Gosford city councils, conducted a one-year trial of stage two vapour recovery (VR2) equipment to reduce petrol vapour emissions at petrol stations. The trial is part of DEC's evaluation of VR2 as an option to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions in the NSW GMR.

The trial involved the modification of petrol bowsers so that petrol vapours are returned to the underground storage tank. User survey results show the equipment is easy to use, considerably reduced petrol odour, and is strongly accepted when its full environmental benefits are known. The equipment proved reliable and abated a significant 884 kg of VOCs at Gosford and 1165 kg of VOCs at Blacktown.

Industrial emissions

Informed by the growing body of health studies which demonstrate the impact of air pollution on human health, DEC has undertaken a significant review of the Clean Air (Plant and Equipment) Regulation 1997. Along with licensing, the Regulation is the key mechanism for controlling the emission of air pollutants from industrial sources in NSW. Following extensive scoping consultation in 2003, DEC conducted formal public information sessions and individual stakeholder group meetings in late 2004 and early 2005. DEC received 31 written submissions on the proposed Regulation from government, industry, and community and environment groups. The results will be incorporated into the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2005-06.

Air emissions inventory project

DEC is overhauling its air emissions inventory to determine the quantity and contribution of over 90 air pollutants from mobile, industrial, commercial, domestic and biogenic sources in the Greater Metropolitan Region. The new inventory will help DEC, other government agencies and the community determine priorities and create strategies for managing air quality both now and in the future. In particular, it will determine whether there is a need to add to the existing regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms for managing air pollution.

So far DEC has surveyed around 7500 stakeholders to gather activity data for transport (e.g. planes, ships, trains and motor vehicles), large industry (e.g. licensed refineries and steelworks), commercial businesses (e.g. service stations), domestic sources (e.g. individual households) and natural sources (e.g. bushfires and plant emissions).



The holes in this nozzle recover vapour emissions before they reach the atmosphere.

DEC is now evaluating the cost effectiveness of implementing VR2 at service stations within the Greater Metropolitan Region.

Waters and catchments

In 2004-05 DEC continued to implement a variety of programs to improve the quality and sustainable use of water in NSW. We further developed market-based instruments to promote reductions in industrial emissions to waters, including South Creek and the Hunter River (page 23), while contributing to water allocation decisions at a catchment level through the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) and the Metropolitan Water Plan.

DEC also chairs the NSW Government's Water Chief Executive Officers group, which includes the main waterrelated agencies and state-owned corporations, as well as central agencies. In 2004-05, the group oversaw a broad agenda including:

- revision of the NSW Wetlands Policy and the development of supporting initiatives to improve the health of the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands
- development of 'macro' water-sharing plans for water sources not covered by the existing 36 water-sharing
- state-wide arrangements for advice on algal blooms and coordination of algal bloom responses
- review of the government's floodplain harvesting policy.

Murray—Darling Basin

In 2004–05 DEC worked on progressing implementation of the Living Murray First Step initiative and in November 2004 the first four water recovery proposals under the initiative began. This will see the recovery of 240 gigalitres of new environmental water at a cost of \$179 million and includes two proposals by NSW recovering 71 gigalitres for \$72 million. Work is continuing on development of The Living Murray Environmental Watering Plan and environmental management plans for each of the six significant ecological assets. DEC also supported the Murray–Darling Basin Commission through the Sustainable Rivers Audit (see case study below).

Metropolitan water plan

During 2004–05, DEC worked with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Sydney Catchment Authority, Sydney Water Corporation, Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability and other agencies to implement the Metropolitan Water Plan for Sydney. The plan was released in October 2004 and is designed to secure the future supply of water for Sydney's growing population and to allow adequate environmental flows to keep our rivers healthy over the next 25 years. DEC continues to play a role in progressing a range of initiatives under the plan including measures to reduce the demand for water, increase water supplies and increase water recycling.

Urban stormwater

DEC administers the Urban Stormwater Program on behalf of the Stormwater Trust. The NSW Government has allocated \$82 million to the trust since 1998 to implement the Urban Stormwater Program as part of the \$3-billion Waterways Package.

The successes of the Urban Stormwater Program to date have included:

- stormwater grants of \$67 million given to councils around NSW, with an additional \$40 million being contributed by councils
- nearly 100 artificial wetlands built to reduce nutrients and sediment entering waterways
- over 300 jobs created across NSW, many in regional areas
- the \$7 million Stormwater Education Program, with an independent evaluation showing that 20 per cent of people have changed their behaviour to reduce stormwater pollution and 70 per cent often actively prevent stormwater pollution as a result of the program
- an estimated 19,520 tonnes of pollution at June 2005 stopped from entering our waterways as a result of the program's activities, which is equivalent to over 1900 full garbage truck loads of rubbish.

■ CASE STUDY

Sustainable Rivers Audit

DEC is contributing to the MDBC's \$11m Sustainable Rivers Audit (SRA), which will track the ecological condition and health of river valleys in the basin for the purposes of natural resource management.

DEC undertakes the macroinvertebrate river health component of the SRA, which measures impacts on insect life, while other agencies monitor fish communities and hydrology. Macroinvertebrate analysis provides a reliable measure of the health of the invertebrates in a river's ecosystem. This year sampling covered the Border Rivers, Darling River, Namoi River, Lachlan River and Murrumbidgee River. DEC will sample each site every second year and this will continue for a minimum of six years.



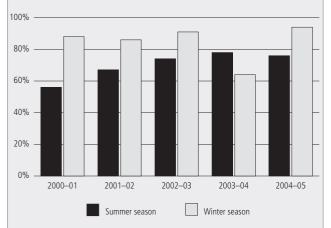
DEC undertakes macroinvertebrate sampling as part of the SRA.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Percentage of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites that comply with Beachwatch swimming water quality guidelines more than 90% of the time

Definition: DEC's Beachwatch and Harbourwatch programs monitor water quality at 129 recreation sites in Sydney, the lower Hunter and the Illawarra, reporting on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis to the community and stakeholders. Samples are tested for two indicator bacteria, faecal coliforms and enterococci, and sites must meet the criteria for both to meet the swimming guidelines. Changes in compliance reflect seasonal rainfall and the effectiveness of stormwater and wastewater management. The summer season extends from October to April; winter covers May to September.

Percentage of Beachwatch and Harbourwatch sites complying with Beachwatch swimming water quality guidelines more than 90% of the time



Interpretation: The percentage of sites complying more than 90% of the time in the summer season remained fairly constant over the past two years, after increases in 2001–02 and 2002–03. The increases were partly the result of an upgrade to the Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant in April 2001. Compliance levels during winter tend to be higher than in summer due to lower winter rainfall and fewer wet-weather related sewage and stormwater inputs.

The Stormwater Trust program is coming to its conclusion and DEC's role this year has been to continue management of the final grants and to ensure close links with stormwater and natural resources management though the catchment management authorities.

Sewer system regulation

DEC regulates the impact on stormwater of sewage treatment systems operated by Sydney Water Corporation through environmental protection licensing and the POEO Act. This includes discharges from sewage treatment plants and overflow from underground sewer pipes. In 2004–05 DEC amended licences issued to Sydney Water to introduce a 'whole of effluent' toxicity limit and specific chemical limits, and to allow Sydney Water to offer treated effluent to third parties for beneficial reuse.

In June 2005 DEC finalised a new framework for sewer overflow abatement from 2005 to 2010, that includes:

- setting system performance outcomes for 2010 in anticipation of 2021 overflow performance goals
- providing flexibility for Sydney Water to select costeffective options and adaptively manage sewer overflow abatement response over time
- establishing a monitoring program to help Sydney Water respond to elevated bacterial levels in dry weather
- prohibiting dry weather discharge from all sewage pumping stations from July 2006
- establishing a transparent framework for Sydney Water to prioritise investment in abatement programs, and focus abatement works on the worst performing areas.

■ CASE STUDY

Water information system for the environment (WISE)

DEC developed the Water Information System for the Environment (WISE) database in partnership with the University of NSW, catchment management authorities, the National Heritage Trust, landholders, local government, Aboriginal and other community groups, educational institutions and historical societies. WISE databases have been completed for the Barwon–Darling, Paroo, Warrego, Cooper, Gwydir, Namoi, Castlereagh, Macquarie-Bogan, Illawarra and Hacking catchments. The CD-ROM for the Cooper will be launched in late 2005.

In 2004–05 the WISE databases were extended to an interface that links areas of interest on a map to relevant information. The web software was updated to meet international accessibility standards and improve usability, and to incorporate a feedback



WISE is now available as a decision-making tool for resource managers for more than half of NSW.

feature encouraging submissions for references to newly published articles. WISE databases can be accessed at www.wiserivers.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au and include extensive linking to other sites.

Beachwatch

DEC developed the Beachwatch Partnership Program in 2004 to assist coastal councils with recreational water quality monitoring and reporting. The program provides technical advice, training, quality assurance and assistance with community reporting, the key areas of need identified by local councils. During the 2004–05 summer swimming season, DEC worked in partnership with nine councils to monitor and report on recreational water quality at 125 swimming locations.

Water quality market-based instruments

The Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme continues to lead the world in using economic instruments for the effective protection of waterways. The Hunter River now has a lower salt content than many bottled mineral waters, allowing agriculture, mining and electricity generation to share the use of the river. Participants in the scheme may only discharge under the its rules, including holding enough credits to cover 'high flow' discharges of saline water.

The scheme establishes target conductivity levels of levels 900 microsiemens per centimetre (µS/cm) and during 2004–05, monitoring showed average daily conductivity at Singleton of 603 µS/cm. At all times during the year, average daily conductivity remained below the target level. This scheme and future audits will provide on-going incentive for industry to invest in strategies to reduce its need to discharge saline water.

During 2004–05, we also conducted three **salinity offset** pilots with environment protection licensees:

• Ulan Coal Mine near Mudgee (Macquarie and Hunter catchments)

- Norske Skog Paper Mill in Albury (Murray catchment)
- Moree Spa baths (Gwydir catchment).

These pilots formed part of the larger Green Offsets for Sustainable Regional Development project, which was completed in June 2005. This project was one of 11 natural resource management projects to receive funding through the first round of the National Market Based Instruments Pilots Program, under the National Action Plan for Salinity.

The South Creek **Nutrient Offset Scheme**, administered by DEC, is a two-year voluntary pilot to improve South Creek's water quality by providing a framework for trading between diffuse and point sources of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus). Sydney Water Corporation and Landcom have provided \$150,000 to implement nutrient reduction measures (offsets).

During 2004–05 the scheme completed or almost completed a range of works to reduce nutrient run-off at seven properties, including:

- a composting study
- settlement ponds (and constructed wetlands) and recycling systems
- modified farming practices to reduce fertiliser use
- modified grazing practices (including fencing and an offriver water supply)
- design and initiation of a program to monitor the effectiveness of specific measures (including pathogen removal), which will continue into 2006.

■ CASE STUDY

Ulan Coal Mine

Ulan Coal Mine is licensed to discharge excess mine water via an irrigation program. To offset the salt in that water, the mine has implemented land use and land management changes to progressively reduce about 280 tonnes of salt exported from 4460 hectares of land that it owns and manages.

The changes involve:

- · revegetating with trees
- sowing and irrigation of perennial pastures
- · changing grazing regimes and restocking remnant vegetation.

This has cost the company about \$1.3 million to date (on-going operating costs are about \$94,000 per year). However, establishing a desalination plant would have cost approximately \$15 million, with on-going costs around \$6 million per year. The net present value of these savings is about \$91 million.



This centrepivot irrigation equipment delivers mine water to perennial

DEC regulates the waste industry to provide policy advice and guidance to waste generators and the public, and manages the waste avoidance and resource recovery programs covered in Chapter 4.

In 2004–05 DEC conducted **waste compliance campaigns** to promote compliance, assist waste operators to understand and meet their legislative obligations and take strong and consistent regulatory action against operators who chose not to comply with the law. DEC also conducted 18 audits and 73 other inspections within the successful waste levy audit program in 2004–05, supporting the NSW Government waste levy (page 66).

Litter programs

Under the POEO Act, authorised officers from DEC, other state agencies and councils have the power to issue penalty notices for littering offences and members of the community can also provide reports to DEC. During 2004–05, 1363 penalty notices were issued and 4834 warning letters were issued as a result of community reports.

DEC works with councils and other agencies such as the Sydney Catchment Authority to form regional illegal dumping (RID) squads. In its first year of operation to March 2005, the Southern RID Squad commenced over 1300 investigations and issued over 100 penalty notices and 18 'clean-up' notices under the POEO Act. The Western Sydney RID Squad, made up of seven councils, issued over 450 penalty notices and 28 clean-up notices

Operation Litterbug, launched in September 2004, is a joint initiative between DEC, Western Sydney councils, Western Sydney RID Squad and the RTA to target roadside litter and illegal dumping in Western Sydney. The education and enforcement programs included:

• 'Stop and pull-over' program for uncovered waste trucks near landfills and waste facilities and surveillance from

- footbridges to detect uncovered loads, particularly targeting the M4 motorway
- 'Cover your load' messages displayed on electronic signage boards along the M4 and 'Don't be a Tosser' banners on roadside bridges
- distribution of 10,000 'Don't be a Tosser' car litter bags via service stations and convenience stores near roadside litter hotspots
- advertisements to deter illegal dumping of asbestos and building and construction waste
- development of educational material for home renovators and builders on how to safely dispose of asbestos waste.

DEC conducted 40 inspections of landfills and waste facilities during the operation and issued five penalty infringement notices for poor waste storage and handling practices. Surveillance of 160 trucks transporting waste resulted in 18 penalty infringement notices for uncovered loads.

DEC also conducts an audit program to monitor compliance with the NSW waste levy, which is applied to waste disposal in Sydney, the Hunter and Illawarra. At rates per tonne of \$21.20 in Sydney and \$13.20 in the Hunter and Illawarra in 2004–05, the levy provides an economic incentive for reducing waste and promoting resource recovery.

Asbestos waste

DEC, in conjunction with WorkCover NSW, undertook inspections of 35 waste facilities and landfills in April and May 2005 to check compliance with handling and disposal requirements for asbestos waste. Ten of the inspections were conducted in partnership with local councils. DEC issued two fines, two clean-up notices and seven warning letters for breaches detected during the campaign.

In March 2005 DEC released educational material for home renovators and builders on how to safely dispose of asbestos waste from homes. The brochure, prepared with the assistance of WorkCover NSW, provides advice on the legal

■ CASE STUDY

Operation White Ibis

In December 2004, DEC began the latest round of inspections under 'Operation White Ibis', a campaign that targeted the inappropriate disposal of degradable and industrial wastes at landfills across Western Sydney. During 2004–05 DEC carried out 73 unannounced inspections of landfills to monitor the types of waste they received.

Four penalty infringement notices were issued to landfills for breaching licence conditions by unlawfully accepting waste. Three transport companies also received fines.

Evaluation of the campaign revealed that landfills had improved their waste acceptance practices, and waste transporters had educated their customers and changed their business practices to ensure that waste was disposed of at an appropriate disposal facility.



A DEC officer conducting an inspection of waste at a Sydney landfill.

The unannounced inspections served as a reminder to the industry that DEC is actively monitoring compliance, and campaigns are now part of DEC's overall waste compliance and enforcement strategy. requirements for safe handling, storage, transport and disposal of asbestos waste.

The brochure was developed in response to community concerns, reflected in a recent survey of Western Sydney residents which found that 77 per cent of residents were concerned about the impacts of asbestos on their health and 83 per cent thought that the health of home renovators was

Environmental guidelines

In July 2004 DEC released Environmental guidelines: composting and related organics processing facilities to clarify requirements for those facilities under the waste framework.

DEC released further guidance on the classification of waste containing a number of specific contaminants in May 2005 through publication of additional contaminants for tables A3 and A4 of the Environmental guidelines: assessment, classification and management of liquid and non-liquid wastes.

Alternative fuels

As part of its wider waste reform agenda, the NSW Government has recently released guidance on the use of alternative fuels, which can include a variety of waste materials. The guidance makes it clear that the government will only support proposals that constitute genuine energy recovery and not those which are a backdoor means of waste disposal.

DEC has provided guidance on its website to clarify how it will assess proposed uses of wastes and other materials as non-standard fuels in terms of both air emission and waste aspects. The waste criteria for assessment include:

- Are any practical higher order reuse opportunities available?
- Does the waste meet the required calorific and thermal efficiency thresholds?
- Is the waste physically and chemically homogeneous and of consistent quality?
- Is the use in accordance with agreed specifications, standards or conditions (fit for purpose)?

Liquid wastes

In 2004–05 DEC conducted 156 inspections of companies licensed to generate or store liquid wastes. The inspections aimed to ensure that storage and handling requirements for liquid wastes did not pose a risk to the environment and that the treatment and disposal of these wastes were adequate.

Companies with poor storage and handling practices were required to address these issues and implement improvements. To date two companies have been issued fines (\$1500) where the follow-up inspections revealed that storage and handling practices had not improved.

In November 2004, DEC conducted an inspection program for licensed waste transporters to check compliance with waste and dangerous goods legislation. Seventy liquid waste tankers were inspected, and nine fines totalling over \$14,000 were issued to licensees.

During 2004–05, 60 companies attended a training program to help generators of liquid waste understand their legal requirements for waste classification, storage and disposal.

In June 2005, over 40 businesses that generate liquid waste attended a Liquid Waste Forum DEC hosted in partnership with Parramatta City Council. The forum encouraged businesses to explore options for reducing the toxicity and volume of waste they generate.

Regulatory reforms

Consultation on the **Protection of the Environment** Operations Bill was initiated this year with the tabling of the Bill in Parliament in June 2005. It includes a revised waste definition that clearly establishes that materials made from waste that enter the environment as fertiliser, fuel or fill will be regulated as wastes. Subsequent changes to the waste Regulation will specify how such materials can be exempted from waste regulatory requirements. These amendments aim to facilitate the beneficial and appropriate reuse of waste, while stamping out dangerous, polluting or harmful reuse of waste on land or as fuel.

The Bill introduces strict new liability offences for polluting land and for supplying false or misleading information about waste.

The **Residue Wastes** amendment to the Protection of the Environment (Waste) Regulation 1996, developed jointly by

■ CASE STUDY

Blue Circle Southern Cement

After extensive negotiations with Blue Circle Southern Cement Works in Berrima, DEC agreed to a modified proposal for the use of alternative fuels subject to the most stringent best-practice emissions standards ever established for such a facility in Australia. The agreed controls are as stringent as those used by the European Union and are considerably more stringent than those imposed for conventional fuel use such as coal or oil.

A liquid oily material and used tyres will be the first alternative fuels in the trial.



This kiln at the Blue Circle cement works at Berrima is being used to trial alternative fuels.

DEC and the Department of Primary Industries with the aim of protecting land, food and the environment from the inappropriate application of high-risk residue wastes, was gazetted in June 2005 for commencement on 1 December 2005.

The new Regulation makes it an offence to cause or permit the application to land of residue waste, or any substance(s) made from residue waste, for the purpose of growing vegetation. The prohibition does not apply to soil improving agents, fertilisers or liming materials or trace element products within the meaning of the Fertilisers Act 1985.

Where it is demonstrated that the residue waste is beneficial and will not cause harm to the environment, human health or agriculture, DEC can grant an exemption from the regulation. Guidance and fact sheets on the requirements have been released for waste generators and for farmers.

Pesticides and chemicals

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council National Chemicals Working Group, chaired by DEC, is developing a framework to assist Australia to better manage chemicals and respond to international developments. As part of this work during 2004-05, the working group developed information projects for the public, industry and government.

DEC also progressed a range of regulations and programs under the Pesticides Act 1999, including a program for the implementation of mandatory training provisions for the use of pesticides. In May 2005, the Minister for the Environment tabled the final report by the Pesticides Implementation Committee in Parliament.

A major focus of the pesticides reforms has been to make certain that vulnerable members of the community are protected from harmful impacts of pesticide use. In particular, great efforts have been made to ensure that regulations are brought forward to provide protection and safety for those members of the community, like children, who are most vulnerable to the effects of pesticides.

DEC is currently working on a regulatory proposal for pesticide notification in public spaces and in the common areas of multiple-occupancy residential complexes.

Reforms in the important area of sensitive sites will continue. The Minister has indicated in parliament that, once we have new notification arrangements in place for public sector pesticide users, notification requirements for private sector pesticide users will be added.

A regulation will be made for the use of pesticides by pest management technicians that will specifically address the safety and protection of places where children and other vulnerable groups in the community gather such as schools, child care centres and hospitals. It is intended that this regulation will be finalised by December 2006.

In May 2004, Australia ratified the Stockholm Convention, which requires member countries to undertake measures to eliminate or reduce the release of persistent organic

pollutants (POPs) into the environment. POPs, including dioxins and DDT, are chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms, and are toxic to humans and wildlife.

In NSW, DEC assists compliance with the convention through our assessment of treatment technologies proposed for the remediation of sites contaminated with legacy wastes. During 2004–05, these assessments included proposals to clean up Orica's Botany site, remediate contaminated land on the Rhodes peninsula and treat chemicals on former cattle dip sites in northern NSW.

Household chemical clean-up

DEC continues to provide a collection system for household chemicals in an effort to keep them out of stormwater and sewerage systems and clean up waste sent to landfill. In 2004–05, 15,400 people delivered over 560 tonnes of chemicals to 59 collection events in the Sydney, Illawarra and Hunter regions. Data from these collections is being analysed and will be fed into discussions on product stewardship responsibilities for the manufacturers of these materials.

Radiation and dangerous goods

The Radiation Control Act 1990, administered by DEC, aims to protect people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation. This is achieved through measures such as licensing people to possess, use and sell radioactive substances and radiation equipment, and registering radiation equipment and premises. The legislation also contains the safety requirements for workplaces where radiation is used and provides powers for DEC to deal with dangerous situations.

On 1 July 2004, provisions in the Act commenced for registering a wider range of equipment and premises, establishing a more comprehensive registration scheme, and enhancing radiation safety and the security of radioactive

In 2004–05 DEC also conducted 60 site inspections and 12 audits as part of its radiation compliance program.

DEC worked with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to develop national approaches to radiation protection, such as the first edition of the National Directory for Radiation Protection released in August 2004.

Hazardous materials incidents

DEC maintains a 24-hour emergency response and hazardous materials advice capability linked to our Environment Line service and the regional after-hours incident response service. In some circumstances, DEC staff attend the incident site, usually to oversee clean-up once the NSW Fire Brigades leaves or to investigate potential breaches of environmental legislation. Examples of significant incidents in 2004-05 included:

- On 11 January 2005, a truck carrying waste oil ran off the road at Urana (west of Wagga Wagga), losing 31,000 litres of a 44,000 litres load into Urangeline Creek. NSW Fire Brigades worked for five days to contain and collect the lost oil so that it didn't contaminate local water supplies.
- On 26 February 2005, a petrol tanker overturned on Pacific Highway at Wahroonga near the entrance to the Newcastle Freeway, resulting in a spill of approximately 34,000 litres of fuel into a nearby creek. The creek was dammed and the fuel collected to prevent further environmental harm.

NSW uses exercise scenarios to test emergency management arrangements and preparedness for major emergencies. DEC participated in a number of exercises during 2004-05, including:

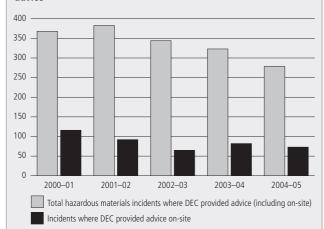
- Exercise Flashlight and Exercise Moonlight, exercises based on a prolonged major power outage in a significant area of Western Sydney. Environmental issues included hazardous materials releases, waste build-up and sewage overflows
- Exercise James Cook, based on a major crude oil spill from a tanker into Botany Bay causing significant environmental effects

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of hazardous material incidents where DEC provided technical or clean-up

Definition: This indicator measures pollution incidents where DEC assisted response agencies with technical advice on environmental clean-up both on-site and by telephone.

Number of hazardous materials incidents where DEC provided



Interpretation: In 2004–05, DEC provided advice on 279 hazardous materials incidents. For 73 (26%) of these incidents advice was provided on-site. This proportion is consistent with the previous four-year average.

- a national tsunami effect workshop to assess the risks, vulnerability and planning for tsunamis in NSW
- a food safety workshop run by the Department of Primary Industry to identify and assess risks to the food chain.

■ CASE STUDY

Groundwater contamination at the Orica site at Botany

In September 2003, DEC issued Orica with a Notice of Clean Up Action to expedite groundwater remediation at its Botany site. The company must prevent further movement of the contaminated groundwater towards Botany Bay and clean up the contamination. To

meet these requirements, Orica proposed construction of a treatment plant to remove and destroy contaminants by air stripping and thermal oxidation. Community workshops were held to discuss the proposal, which was outlined in an environmental impact statement in late 2004.

After consideration of public submissions and advice of independent experts, including the US Environmental Protection Agency and government agencies, DEC approved the \$167-million proposal subject to stringent



The groundwater treatment plant being constructed on the Botany Industry Park in Sydney.

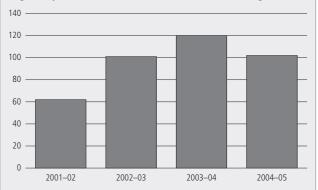
conditions to protect the community and restore the health of the environment as quickly as possible. Orica commenced pumping the contaminated groundwater in October 2004 and will complete the major groundwater treatment plant in late 2005. DEC has required Orica to provide a financial assurance to guarantee the completion of the clean-up. DEC has also required the establishment of an independent monitoring committee, with community representation, to oversee the operation of the plant.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of regulatory actions under the **Contaminated Land Management Act**

Definition: This indicator outlines the number of regulatory actions DEC has taken under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997. DEC 'actions' include assessment of contamination under the Act, declarations of investigation areas and remediation sites, and orders and agreements to voluntary proposals relating to investigation and/or clean-up tasks. When contamination presents a significant risk of harm as defined under the Act, DEC may take one or more of these regulatory actions to lead to site clean-up.

Regulatory actions under the Contaminated Land Management Act



Interpretation: In 2004–05, there was a small decrease in the number of regulatory actions taken. The number of contaminated sites being identified tends to reflect the rate of property development. The average number of actions taken over the 2002–04 period was considerably higher than in previous years.

Contaminated sites

The Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act) gives DEC power to regulate the investigation and remediation of significantly contaminated sites to ensure the protection of ecological and human health. The clean-up of these sites can be very complex and costly and take a number of years. This year, DEC completed the investigation and oversaw the clean-up of eight sites. DEC continues to oversee the clean-up of major sites including contaminated groundwater at the Orica site in Botany; the Pasminco Cockle Creek Smelter site; the former Mudgee Gasworks site; former BHP Newcastle sites; and the land and sediment contamination at the Rhodes peninsula. Over 70 sites are in the process of being investigated or remediated.

Approximately a quarter of the sites regulated by DEC under the CLM Act have been contaminated by fuel leakages. To reduce the risk of future soil and groundwater contamination, DEC is developing a regulation that would adopt best management practices, and focus on early detection and clean-up of leaks and environmentally sound management of these sites.

DEC provides access to records of contaminated sites through its website.

■ CASE STUDY

Tempe lands remediation and redevelopment

The 40-hectare Tempe Tip was the site of a rubbish tip, right next to the Alexandra Canal and close to Sydney Airport. Leachate generated by the buried waste over many decades of the tip's operation was causing an unacceptable impact on the canal. Remediation was required and was regulated by DEC. The large scale of this compulsory remediation project was particularly challenging in its urban environment. However, it provided an impetus for Marrickville Council to rehabilitate and redevelop a large piece of derelict land in a well-planned manner.

The remediation was completed in early 2005 and the results are impressive. The construction of an in-ground leachate cut-off wall along the canal to stop harmful substances from entering the canal commenced in April 2004 and was completed in October 2004. This was followed by the construction of the leachate collection and treatment system, completed by December 2004. Since early 2005, the leachate treatment system has undergone a commissioning phase. Its treatment capacity is expected to be gradually increased to the designed level. Existing original wetlands have been retained and enhanced and other land has been dedicated for community recreational use including a golf driving range. The total cost of the clean-up and



Installation of the leachate collection system following construction of the in-ground leachate cut-off wall.

redevelopment is estimated to be \$12 million. This is a good example of how appropriate regulation, combined with the genuine efforts of stakeholders, has delivered an environmental outcome and additional benefits for the community.



Improving community wellbeing

Corporate plan priorities for 2004-06

Promoting 'liveability' concepts

Establish and promote new 'liveability' concepts, such as linking improvements in health and air quality and by promoting 'healthy parks and healthy people'

DEC continued to work with NSW Health on critical issues including the DIY Safe guidelines for home renovators. DEC actively participated in 'Healthy Parks Healthy People' in 2004-05.

During 2004–05 DEC also contributed to liveability by pursuing environment protection, sustainability and conservation goals through input into the NSW Government's Sydney Metropolitan Strategy.

Aboriginal participation in conservation management

Increase the active participation of Aboriginal communities in conservation management, on and off reserved land

DEC respects and acknowledges the central role of Aboriginal peoples in the management and protection of their cultural heritage.

In 2004–05, DEC developed the Interim community consultation requirements for applicants to guide people involved in the preparation of applications for permits and consents under Part 6 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. The requirements recognise that the values and concerns of Aboriginal peoples need to be taken fully into consideration in the assessment processes.

During 2004-05 DEC worked with Aboriginal communities and other NSW government departments to assist Aboriginal communities to increase their capacity to engage in the management and conservation of land, water and natural resources (page 41).

Odour mitigation

Complete the development of a NSW odour mitigation policy

At 30 June 2005, DEC, the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources were finalising the NSW odour mitigation framework, aimed at providing industry, odour specialists, consent authorities and environmental regulators with up-to-date information and guidance for assessing and managing activities that emit odour. The policy will clarify approaches for reducing odours, reducing land-use conflicts and, although not regulation, will be guided by key odourrelated provisions of the *Protection of the Environment* Operations Act 1997.

Noise mitigation

Develop a noise mitigation policy framework to guide development within the state

DEC has continued to develop the noise mitigation policy framework, providing training to support the June 2004 publication of the Noise guide for local government, amending the draft Guidelines for construction noise after further input from industry, and reviewing the Noise Control Regulation.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Percentage of general terms of approval for Integrated Development Assessment processes issued by DEC to consent authorities within statutory time frames

Definition: As part of the integrated development assessment process, DEC has responsibility for approving certain applications made under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. We have a role as an approval body where:

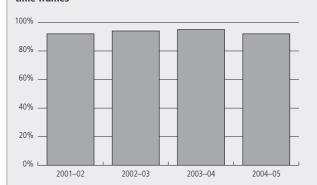
- the proposed development also requires an environment protection licence or a variation of a licence issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- the proposed development requires consent to knowingly destroy, deface or damage, or knowingly cause, or permit the destruction or defacement of, or damage to, an object or Aboriginal place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- we have responsibilities for species protection under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

In the cases where the integrated development assessment requires an EPA environment protection licence, we determine the necessary requirements called 'general terms of approval' to consent authorities, such as the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources or local councils, within prescribed time frames, generally 60 days. This may take longer if insufficient information is provided. Any subsequent planning approval must not be inconsistent with these requirements.

This indicator outlines the proportion of general terms of approval processed by DEC within the stated time frames.

Recent reforms to planning for major infrastructure projects, removing DEC's requirement to issue general terms of approval, will affect this indicator in future years.

Percentage of general terms of approval for integrated development assessment processes issued by DEC within statutory time frames



Interpretation: DEC continues to have a high level of performance in issuing general terms of approval, reflecting efficient internal procedures. We issued 96 general terms of approval compared to 86 in 2003–04 with a slight drop in the percentage issued on time (from 95% to 92%).

Responding to noise

Transport infrastructure

During 2004–05, DEC continued to regulate the construction of important government infrastructure projects, including the Cross City Tunnel, Chatswood to Epping Rail Link, the Lane Cove Tunnel and the Westlink M7.

DEC has required licensees to investigate and implement alternative work practices that are designed to reduce the impact of night works on impacted residential communities. While recognising the need to provide a safe working site for employees, DEC is working with the RTA and the WorkCover Authority to encourage the use of less intrusive forms of reversing alarms, one of the most annoying sources of noise from these types of construction projects.

DEC has also worked closely in the last year with the RTA's Transport Management Centre to help ensure noise issues are addressed when organisations are applying for out-of-hours road occupancy licences.

Noisy vehicles

As part of DEC's motor vehicle compliance program, 16 joint operations were carried out in 2004–05 with the NSW Police and RTA. DEC officers tested vehicles against noise emission levels specified in the Noise Control Regulation, and to ensure pollution control devices had not been tampered with. As a result of the operations, defect notices were issued to non-complying vehicles for them to be fixed and retested, and penalty notices were issued for offences such as exceeding the legal noise limits.

Review of the noise control regulation

DEC is currently reviewing the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2000 to ensure it sets an appropriate balance between providing the community with adequate protection from undue noise and allowing legitimate activities. Representatives of local government and police are included in the regulatory review working group to ensure it has the input of its primary enforcement agencies.

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Healthy Parks Healthy People was established in NSW in 2003 by the Sydney Urban Parks Education and Research Group (SUPER) to encourage visitation to Sydney's parks and gardens by highlighting their mental and physical health benefits. DEC participates on SUPER together with Centennial Parklands, Botanic Gardens Trust, Parramatta Park Trust, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

Events conducted by SUPER in 2004–05 included:

ParkFest

Over 4000 people participated in ParkFest in Centennial parklands in October 2004. DEC staff, including Discovery guides from Royal, Sydney Harbour and Blue Mountains national parks, attended the event to answer questions and distribute information.

Seniors Week celebrations

Working with the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, on 16 March 2005 DEC provided free entry for NSW seniors to all fee-charging parks and reserves other than the Sydney Harbour National Park islands.

Sydneysiders use of parks survey

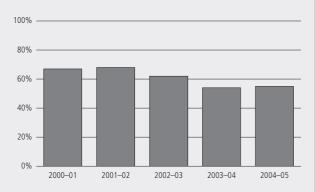
The third survey of Sydney residents' use of parks and gardens was undertaken in late 2004. Of all respondents, 99 per cent rated their visit to a park as enjoyable, with most visiting a park to relax or take a walk. Findings of this threeyear study indicate that encouraging people to visit parks and gardens more often, to do some exercise or relax, can improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing, which in turn can lead to reduced health costs for the community.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Percentage of Environment Line pollution incident reports about issues relating to air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises

Definition: DEC's Environment Line (formerly known as Pollution Line) receives reports from the public and industry on pollution incidents. This indicator measures the percentage of those reports related to dust, smoke or other airborne particulate emissions, odour and noise where DEC is the authority responsible for action or has an overarching responsibility to try to resolve the issue.

Percentage of Environment Line incident reports about issues relating to air quality, odours or noise from regulated premises



Interpretation: When combined, air and noise pollution incident reports show a small but steady downward trend (with a slight increase of less than 2% this year), but still account for over 50% of total incident reports to Environment Line each year. The percentage of reports reflects the public's concern about lifestyle and amenity. The decrease in reports over the years indicates improvements in the management of major sources of pollution onsite, including the implementation of stricter odour guidelines and improved communication with surrounding communities. In some cases weather conditions may also influence the level of

■ CASE STUDY

The Great Australian Bushwalk

This national event is conducted annually by the National Parks Association (NPA) to foster environmental awareness and protection, develop community spirit and encourage a healthy lifestyle. The daylong event held in October 2004 consisted of numerous bushwalks held in different locations across the state, many within national parks. DEC staff worked with the NPA to identify appropriate tracks and monitor use by participants who were offered free park entry with registration.



Enjoying the views in Royal National Park on the Great Australian



Conserving natural and cultural values across the landscape

The DEC *Corporate Plan 2004–06* identified the following **strategic focus areas** and **outcomes** required to achieve our corporate goal of 'Conservation of natural and cultural values across the landscape'.

Strategic focus areas	Outcomes
Biodiversity protected and restored	Improvement in the conservation of biodiversity, including threatened species, on public and private lands
Aboriginal cultural heritage protected	Conservation of Aboriginal objects, places and landscapes of cultural value
Reserve system managed and improved	Improved conservation of natural, heritage and cultural values in terrestrial and marine reserves
Public use of reserve system sustainable	Visitors enjoy the reserve system with minimal impact on its conservation value

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Protecting and restoring biodiversity

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Reforming threatened species conservation

Lead the process of reforming NSW threatened species conservation laws, systems and approaches

During 2004–05 DEC developed a package of new threatened species regulations and amendments to the legislation. The package was passed in parliament in November 2004 and commencement will be timed to coincide with the native vegetation regulations in 2005–06.

Reforms include:

- new criteria for listing threatened species, populations and communities, which were developed by a working group of internationally recognised scientists based on IUCN global Red List criteria
- the Priority Action Statement (PAS), a new provision to identify the strategies and, where known, specific actions needed to promote the recovery of threatened species and abatement of each key threatening process.

NSW Biodiversity Strategy

Review, develop and lead implementation of the next stage of the NSW Biodiversity Strategy, 'Living NSW'

DEC is developing a successor to the original NSW Biodiversity Strategy published in 1999. The next strategy will take into account changes to NSW arrangements for threatened species, catchment, water and vegetation management, the on-going decline of biodiversity, and emerging threats, particularly climate change.

Supporting CMAs and councils

Provide tools and knowledge to support catchment management authorities and councils in their protection of the natural and cultural values of biodiversity

During 2004–05, DEC developed tools for spatial information, including property vegetation plans for catchment management authorities (CMAs) and councils. DEC's biometric tool is a key part of the biodiversity and threatened species element of the Property Vegetation Plan Developer, trialled this year (page 35). During the year DEC published a booklet for CMAs on implementing water quality objectives in their planning and investment decisions. DEC also prepared Aboriginal heritage regional assessment guidelines for CMAs, which will be finalised in late 2005–06.

DEC is also providing staff to most CMAs by secondment as a way of providing knowledge and support.

Addressing climate change

Work to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity

DEC contributed to the development of the National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan, which has been adopted by all states and the Australian Government, and is now coordinating implementation of the plan in NSW (page 36).

Off-reserve conservation

Develop and implement off-reserve programs and initiatives for conservation as part of building a comprehensive, adequate and representative protected area system

During 2004–05, 23 new voluntary conservation agreements were signed and 21 new wildlife refuges gazetted, as part of the DEC Conservation Partners Program that gives formal protection to natural and cultural heritage of high conservation value on private and other public lands under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (page 36).

DEC also began a review of the effectiveness of programs and of additional mechanisms for improving conservation on private and unreserved public lands, including strategies linking protected area establishment with natural resource management.

Improving wetland system protection

Develop and implement a strategy for improved protection of NSW wetland systems

During the year DEC developed a five-year strategy for protecting wetlands and worked with other NSW government agencies to finalise the NSW Wetland Policy and establish wetland recovery plans for the Macquarie Marshes and the Gwydir Wetlands (page 38).

DEC also provided support to sustainability assessments of NSW coastal lakes and began consultation with government agencies regarding a draft Ramsar Plan 2005–08. The draft Ramsar Plan sets out nomination, management and communication objectives for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in NSW.

Protecting biodiversity

Biodiversity conservation policy and strategies

DEC participated in the development of the NSW Government's natural resources management reforms to ensure that there is an upfront consideration of biodiversity and threatened species in decision-making.

DEC has progressed its trialling and reporting of the NSW Biodiversity Strategy 1999–2004. This provides useful information for the development of the successor Biodiversity Strategy. DEC has developed the approach for progressing the new strategy, including defining appropriate consultative strategies and linkages with other legislative and natural resources policy reforms.

The Native Vegetation Act 2003 puts an end to broadscale clearing of native vegetation unless it can be demonstrated that it improves or maintains environmental outcomes. The Act provides for a Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) process and a decision support tool, the PVP Developer. DEC devised and developed the biometric and threatened species modules of the Developer. For the first time landholders and CMA staff will be able to work together to value the cost of a clearing proposal, the value of proposed offsets and the value of agreed management actions so that decisions on clearing or incentives can be made in a transparent, comparable and scientifically sound manner. DEC is now actively involved in preparing CMA staff for implementation of the new tool.

DEC is also providing advice to CMAs and local government on assessing regional conservation values and priorities to assist them in preparing regionally based plans that improve outcomes for biodiversity. During 2004–05 DEC worked with the Northern Rivers and Hunter-Central Rivers CMAs in the preparation of their three-year investment strategies and draft catchment action plans, to ensure that recovery planning and threat abatement is appropriately recognised and targeted for CMA investment in the long term. At June 2005 DEC had eight staff seconded to CMAs, which will eventually be increased to 13.

DEC participated in a national working group to respond to a Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council request to 'address the identified biodiversity decline, focusing on high priority, system-wide threats and the most cost-effective measures that will lead to long-term improvements to biodiversity assets, taking into account existing programs and the need to avoid duplication.' A report was prepared for submission to Ministers with recommendations for a national program to improve biodiversity outcomes in relation to the causes of habitat loss, the impacts of invasive species and the likely impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

DEC has been working with the Department of Lands to implement the government's Crown land reforms by developing a robust process for the assessment of conservation values for Crown lease applications. An interim process has been agreed for the assessment of priority crown leases, and the framework established for the assessment of all applications, to help ensure environment protection and conservation are appropriately considered.

■ CASE STUDY

Eastern pygmy possum

During 2004–05 a small-mammal survey in Munmorah State Conservation Area (SCA) on the central coast of NSW recorded a threatened eastern pygmy possum, the first in the reserve. DEC staff also recorded brown antechinus, New Holland mice and swamp rats. Similar surveys in Mount Royal National Park recorded a number of small mammals including a quoll, northern brown bandicoots, bush rats, swamp rats, New Holland mice and eight potaroos. These annual surveys help to assess the impact of fire and feral predators on small mammal populations.



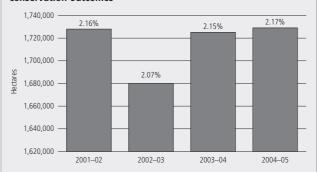
This eastern pygmy possum was the first to be recorded in Munmorah State Conservation Area.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

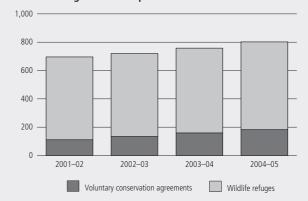
Area of private land in NSW managed by landholders for conservation outcomes in programs managed by DEC (includes voluntary conservation agreements and wildlife refuges)

Definition: This measure indicates the percentage of the total land area of NSW protected and managed by landholders of private and unreserved public land for conservation outcomes under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, and the total number of hectares this represents. It also measures the number of voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs) and wildlife refuges.

Hectares (percentage) of private land in NSW managed for conservation outcomes



Conservation agreements on private land



Interpretation: The total area remains similar to last year, an increase of 4000 hectares, with just over 2% of private land in NSW managed by landholders for conservation purposes. The reduction in private land conserved for 2002–03 was the result of two major wildlife refuges (Perry and Wilga) being transferred into the public reserve system as the Paroo–Darling National Park. The numbers of VCAs and wildlife refuges show a steady increase.

Climate change and biodiversity

Climate change will have significant impacts on some species and ecosystems over the next century, and in some cases these impacts are already occurring. The National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan 2004–07 has been adopted by all states and the Australian Government. DEC is coordinating the NSW response to the plan and reviewing its own conservation programs to take greater account of the potential impacts.

DEC is collaborating in research to improve our ability to understand the links between climate change, bushfire risk and biodiversity. During 2004–05, DEC continued to monitor ice break-up on alpine lakes and the duration of ephemeral ice ecosystems, snow depth and temperature beneath the snow cover, vertebrate fauna responses to 30 per cent reduction in snow cover over the last 40 years, sites with snow-patch communities, and transects to sample invertebrate responses. DEC is planning to extend this monitoring effort to other ecosystems in the reserve system that will be threatened by even a low to moderate level of warming.

Bushfire risk management research

DEC is taking a lead role in a Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre project, in conjunction with the Australian National University and Australian Defence Force Academy, examining the optimal mix of management activities (e.g. prescribed burning, road networks and access) needed to minimise risk in protecting human life and conserving biodiversity.

A further project is examining historical fire activity in the Sydney Basin. Models which relate fire activity to weather, vegetation and management factors will provide insight into the determinants of fire activity and the degree to which they can be influenced through management. In 2004–05 the NSW Biodiversity Strategy project *Guidelines for ecologically sustainable fire management* were released.

Conservation on private land

The Conservation Partners Program delivers formal protection for high conservation value natural and cultural heritage on private and other public lands through commitments under conservation agreements or wildlife refuges. The program also coordinates landholder involvement in conservation through non-statutory property registration schemes, which includes Land for Wildlife.

During 2004-05:

- the Minister for the Environment signed 23 voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs) covering an area of 1657 hectares
- the Governor declared 21 wildlife refuges, covering an area of 1084 hectares
- 37 landholders registered their properties for Land for Wildlife, covering 195 hectares of which 136 hectares are retained natural wildlife habitat. At June 2005, a further 36 landholders were working towards registration, covering 369 hectares.

The NSW Environmental Trust–funded Voluntary Conservation Biodiversity and Inventory Project was completed in 2004–05 following 23 property visits this year. The inventory found that all properties had remnant native vegetation and riparian areas or wetlands, the majority had threatened or regionally significant species, and all had woodlands and/or rangelands where grazing regimes were managed for conservation. The project also involved working with landholders having wildlife refuges to build capacity in conservation management in high priority conservation areas of western NSW, such as the Darling Riverine Plain Bioregion.

Threatened species recovery planning and threat abatement

Eight recovery plans were prepared by DEC and approved by the NSW Minister for the Environment in the last 12 months. This brings the total to 65 recovery plans, covering 79 threatened species, populations and ecological communities, and two threat abatement plans covering two listed key threatening processes.

Thirteen draft recovery plans were placed on public exhibition and a further 25 draft plans were completed or close to completion at 30 June 2005. One draft threat abatement plan, Invasion of native plant communities by bitou bush/boneseed (Chrysanthemoides monilifera), was placed on public exhibition in the last twelve months.

Recovery plans approved by the Minister for the Environment during the past year include one endangered fauna population, the koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* at Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens, and nine plant species: Darwinia biflora; Davidsonia jerseyana (Davidson's plum); Grevillea beadleana; Rapanea sp. A Richmond River; Eidothea hardeniana (Nightcap oak); Grevillea caleyi (Terry Hills grevillea); Daphnandra sp (Illawarra socketwood); Irenepharsus trypherus (Illawarra irene); and Zieria granulata (Illawarra zieria).

■ CASE STUDY

The Nightcap oak recovery plan

The Nightcap oak is a large rainforest tree (up to 40 metres high), which remained undiscovered in the Nightcap Range in north-eastern NSW until 2000. It is a primitive member of the ancient Proteaceae family and has features that recall a time when Australia had a much wetter climate. Only around 100 adult trees have been found in a single small area. The Nightcap oak is now listed as endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, and critically endangered on the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

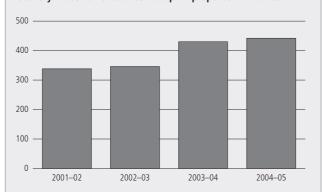
The recovery plan was approved in 2004 and its actions will protect the habitat of the species from fire and weeds, and include conducting monitoring and research to ensure the on-going viability of the species

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of threatened species, endangered populations and ecological communities and key threatening processes for which a recovery and/or threat abatement plan has been prepared or initiated

Definition: This indicator measures the number of threatened species, endangered populations or ecological communities and key threatening processes for which a recovery plan or threat abatement plan has been prepared or initiated. The process of recovery and threat abatement planning requires time to assess species threats, identify actions, consult with affected partners, undertake public exhibition of draft plans and consult with the community prior to seeking approval from the Minister for the Environment and finalising each plan.

Species, populations, ecological communities and processes with a recovery and/or threat abatement plan prepared or initiated



Interpretation: There has been a slight increase in threatened species, populations, ecological communities and processes covered this year (2.7%). As a result of the significant increase between 2001–02 and 2003–04, about 50% of listed threatened species are now included in a single or multi-species plan. Following amendments to planning requirements of the *Threatened Species* Conservation Act 1995, a new indicator will be developed referring to actions implemented for species identified in the threatened species priority action statement.



Foliage of the Nightcap oak, which was first discovered in 2000.

in the wild. Trees have been planted in both the Sydney and Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens for education purposes as well as for ex situ conservation.

Recovery plans exhibited over the last twelve months include:

- nine plant species: *Quassia* sp. Mooney Creek, *Pimelea* spicata (pink pimelea), *Corchorus cunninghamii*, *Persoonia* nutans (nodding geebung), *Fontainea oraria*, *Olearia* flocktoniae (Dorrigo daisy-bush), *Calotis moorei* (Moore's burr-daisy), *Zieria ingramii* and *Zieria obcordate*
- six fauna species: Isoodon obesulus (southern brown bandicoot), Litoria raniformis (southern bell frog), L. aurea (green and golden bell frog), Ninox strenua (powerful owl), Tyto tenebricosa (sooty owl) and T. novaehollandiae (masked owl). The latter three species comprise the large forest owl multi-species recovery plan.

Wildlife management and regulation

DEC is responsible for the care and protection of wildlife in NSW. This includes responding to incidents involving wildlife and assisting people in their interactions with wildlife. For example, DEC has developed procedural guidelines for staff and the public on disentangling large whales, skills that were put to the test during 2004–05 when three entangled whales were successfully freed.

During 2004–05, DEC issued 18,745 licences and consents in relation to keeping, breeding and trade of native animals, for research on wildlife, and for other miscellaneous purposes, including wildlife rehabilitation, capture and relocation of reptiles and possums, taxidermy, and pest bird control.

Kangaroo Management Program

The goal of the Kangaroo Management Program is to ensure that viable populations of kangaroo species are maintained throughout their ranges. The commercial harvest of kangaroos is limited by an annual quota, based on population estimates to ensure it remains sustainable. The program includes monitoring and research to ensure its goal is being met.

As a result of drought impacts on kangaroo populations, quotas were reduced for the 2004 calendar year compared to 2003. In 2004, only 68 per cent of the available statewide quota was actually harvested. The commercial take as a proportion of the available quota varied, being higher in the more eastern and northern zones than the Far West of NSW. This was related to market forces as well as seasonal conditions.

In the trial commercial harvest zone in south-east NSW, approximately 79 per cent of the available quota was harvested, indicating a high level of interest by landholders and strong support from the kangaroo industry. DEC will continue to monitor the impact on kangaroo populations through to the end of the trial in 2007.

Protecting wetland systems

DEC has developed a five-year strategy to deal with the significant challenges of protecting wetlands. DEC's Wetland Initiative identifies inland and coastal wetlands for DEC focus and action. This includes establishing and managing a network of protected areas to protect coastal wetlands, improving environmental flow, management of DEC water licences, influencing planning decisions affecting wetlands, and improving our information on the ecological character of NSW wetlands.

In May 2005 the NSW Government committed \$13.4 million toward a NSW Wetland Recovery Plan, developed by DEC in partnership with Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and the Department of Primary Industries. The first stage of the plan will fund a range of water recovery and water efficiency projects to deliver long-term benefits to the Macquarie Marshes and Gwydir Wetlands. NSW is seeking matching funding from the Australian Water Fund to support this important work.

■ CASE STUDY

Towra Wetlands

Thanks to 10 years of collaborative effort and funding from the Environmental Trust, Towra Wetlands are protected again by the replenishment of sand to the degraded foreshores of Towra Point Nature Reserve. This is an example of successful resource sharing from state and federal funding, with substantial support from Friends groups and the volunteer community. The beach nourishment project has recreated Towra Spit Island, a critical breeding site for the endangered little tern. The 2004–05 breeding season, which immediately followed the dredging works, was the most successful on record for the Botany Bay site.



Endangered little tern chicks on Towra Spit Island.

Aboriginal communities and biodiversity

DEC builds and maintains strong working relationships with Aboriginal communities to identify and protect cultural heritage values in biodiversity protection. DEC provides CMAs, land managers and local councils with knowledge and support to develop and implement strategies that protect Aboriginal peoples' interest in biodiversity.

In June 2005 DEC released the best-practice guide, Aboriginal cultural heritage and regional studies: a general approach. The guidelines will assist consent authorities and other organisations to engage Aboriginal communities in natural resource management processes.

DEC is working on Aboriginal cultural heritage regional studies with Bega Valley and Eurobodalla shire councils and local Aboriginal organisations to identify and assess Aboriginal cultural values in each local government area. The studies use archival and historical research, Aboriginal community oral history, recording of important sites and places, and archaeological sensitivity mapping.

Wild resources

During 2004–05 DEC commissioned a project to identify the economic value of native flora and fauna, or 'wild resources', for Aboriginal communities at Wallis Lake on the NSW south coast, as part of the NSW Comprehensive Coastal

The value of wild resources harvested by Aboriginal people in the Wallis Lake catchment was estimated to be between \$468 and \$1200 per adult per year. This amount represented between three and eight per cent of the gross income of the Aboriginal community. Harvesting was also found to make a significant contribution to the dietary intake of what is a relatively poor community.

Virtually all harvested resources were used by the harvester's household or distributed to family. The study reinforces, for natural resource and conservation managers, that Aboriginal communities see harvesting wild resources as having economic and dietary importance, rather than as a recreational activity.

The impact of salinity

In June 2005 DEC released Living Land, Living Culture: Aboriginal Heritage and Salinity. The book looks at the effects of salinity and other environmental problems on Aboriginal cultural heritage in NSW. It explores how environmental degradation can affect cultural places such as historic sites, peoples' 'country', their bush foods and medicines, their wellbeing and their sense of community

DEC worked closely with members of the Wiradjuri Aboriginal community and the book sets out ideas and strategies for dealing with Aboriginal peoples' concerns about salinity. The core message of the book, that we need to link the management of natural and cultural heritage and understand the relationship between people's sense of place and the condition of the environment around them, can now be used to guide DEC and other agency program development.

■ CASE STUDY

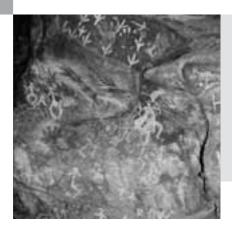
Aerial surveys of waterbirds

In 2004-05 we completed the 22nd aerial survey of waterbirds across eastern Australia. This cooperative program is supported by the wildlife authorities of NSW, Victoria, SA, Queensland and the University of NSW. In October of each year, waterbirds are counted from the air on about 2000 wetlands across ten 30kilometre-wide survey bands. This survey provides one of the country's most important long-term datasets on the health and biodiversity of river and wetland environments. It is also providing information on up to 50 waterbird species including several threatened species. The 2004 survey highlighted the severe impact of the current drought. Total waterbird numbers on Macquarie Marshes were the lowest ever recorded.



A waterbird rookery on the Lowbidgee floodplain.

The number of waterbirds averaged 30,000 in the 1980s, and was never below 100, but in 2004 less than 20 birds were recorded.



Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Building effective relationships

Lead other government agencies in building effective relationships with Aboriginal peoples and communities to protect cultural heritage and to deliver the Government's Aboriginal Cultural and Heritage Action Plan

In 2004–05 DEC coordinated development and implementation of the NSW Culture and Heritage Action Plan, part of the NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs Policy 2003-2012: Two Ways Together. The policy provides a framework for government agencies to work with Aboriginal communities and each other to improve the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

The Culture and Heritage Action Plan recognises the link between the ability of Aboriginal peoples to protect, practice and promote their culture and heritage, and overcoming disadvantage in all aspects of life (page 41).

Reviewing approaches to protection

Review legislation and approaches for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage

DEC has begun reviewing the way Aboriginal cultural heritage is regulated in NSW following the recent planning reforms introduced through the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Infrastructure and other Planning Reform) Act 2005. As part of the review, DEC acknowledges the concerns of some stakeholders that there is a high cost associated with archaeological works required to support a consent to destroy an Aboriginal object or place, which in some cases has impeded understanding and conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage. DEC also prepared guidelines on Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment needs and submitted these to the Department of Infrastucture, Planning and Natural Resources to progress the new planning framework.

Returning Aboriginal cultural heritage

Progress the return to Aboriginal communities of ancestral remains, cultural materials and knowledge, including working with Aboriginal communities and the Australian Museum

DEC's repatriation program returns Aboriginal ancestral remains, cultural material and information to Aboriginal communities across the state. In 2004–05 DEC facilitated the return of 40 ancestral remains and one collection of cultural material held under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to five NSW Aboriginal communities, including the Yorta Yorta and Worimi Nations, and Metropolitan and Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Councils (page 42). DEC also coordinated the return of a further 33 remains not held under the Act, as part of a repatriation partnership strategy involving institutions including the Australian Museum, National Museum of Australia and the University of Sydney.

Protecting places of significance

Identify, assess and protect places of significance to Aboriginal peoples in NSW

At 30 June 2005, 43 Aboriginal places had been declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. During 2004–05 DEC continued to identify and assess Aboriginal significant sites. The declaration of an area as an Aboriginal place formally recognises and protects the cultural attachment people have to the land. The Rock Nature Reserve, near Wagga Wagga, was declared an Aboriginal place in April 2005 (page 42).

In April 2005, DEC also released the *Manual for the identification of Aboriginal remains* to assist police officers and DEC staff with field identification of Aboriginal ancestral remains. The manual ensures the participation of Aboriginal communities in the management and conservation of their ancestral remains and associated cultural material.

Aboriginal cultural heritage planning and support

DEC has a key responsibility to protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage on behalf of Aboriginal communities, and to assist them to retain access to, and control of, that heritage. DEC is guided by the following principles:

- respect for both traditional and contemporary Aboriginal knowledge and culture
- recognition of the need for stories and traditions to give archaeological evidence context in the natural landscape
- acknowledgment that Aboriginal cultural heritage cannot be separated from nature
- respect for Aboriginal peoples as the owners and interpreters of their heritage
- challenging the common assumption that authentic cultural values have been lost in NSW.

DEC works with other government agencies to implement the Culture and Heritage Action Plan's four key areas: land management, access and use; country, place and cultural material; Aboriginal culture and heritage expression; and cultural solutions.

Catchment management authorities

During 2004–05 DEC cultural heritage staff provided technical and cultural advice to the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority to assist its Indigenous reference group with the development of an Aboriginal cultural heritage module for property vegetation planning. The module provides for identifying Aboriginal sites and places of significance; a mechanism for trade-offs between Aboriginal heritage values; and increased awareness of culturally significant flora.

DEC staff also worked with the Namoi Catchment Management Authority, and coordinated an information and training workshop for landowners and interested people in relation to site surveys and statutory responsibilities relating to protection of biodiversity that is culturally significant to Aboriginal peoples.

Aboriginal *Discovery* Program

The Aboriginal *Discovery* Program aims to enhance community appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage and the importance of its protection in the landscape. The program employs and develops local Aboriginal peoples' capacity to share their stories in a culturally appropriate way through guided walks, talks and

In 2004–05, 77 Aboriginal *Discovery* rangers delivered 552 guided activities state-wide and 23 Aboriginal volunteers were involved with training and assistance.

In addition, during 2004–05 DEC developed and delivered curriculum-based Aboriginal cultural activities for school students, including both on-park excursions and school visits by Aboriginal Discovery rangers.

Training programs

During 2004–05, DEC conducted *Discovery* tour guide training for 104 people from local Aboriginal communities. The Mungo *Discovery* Program provided employment and on-going training for 25 people from the three traditional tribal groups associated with Mungo National Park. Local elders who attended this training program commented that 'they appreciated the opportunity to share and pass on their knowledge to the younger generation'. In the Hunter, as a result of an Environmental Trust grant and regional financial support, 67 local Aboriginal people participated in training, and 10 course graduates were employed for 10 months as trainee *Discovery* Rangers.

A training program was conducted for a second year by DEC officers in the Macleav area for Aboriginal bush regenerators at Arakoon State Conservation Area. Following the training program, the local Aboriginal community was involved in bush regeneration and walking track construction at Saltwater National Park.

■ CASE STUDY

Nanima Mission pollution control

In 2003 DEC identified that the Nanima Mission Aboriginal Community, near Wellington, had been affected by pollution run off from the nearby waste management centre and illegal dumping in a nearby creek. This year DEC, in partnership with a number of community organisations, local government and the Wellington Aboriginal community conducted a major clean-up and tree planting.



Cleaning up illegally dumped waste that was adversely affecting the Nanima Mission

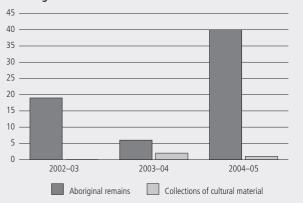
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of Aboriginal remains and collections of cultural material held under the National Parks and Wildlife Act repatriated to Aboriginal communities

Definition: This indicator measures the number of Aboriginal ancestral remains and collections of cultural material held under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act repatriated by DEC to NSW Aboriginal communities. DEC also works with the Australian Museum and community groups to facilitate repatriation under other Acts.

A 'collection' is more than two and up to 200 items. The repatriation process involves extensive consultation with Aboriginal communities in order to ensure items are returned appropriately and according to Aboriginal community protocols.

Aboriginal remains and collections of cultural material repatriated to Aboriginal communities



Interpretation: DEC has made it a priority to progress the return of Aboriginal remains and collections to Aboriginal communities. This year there was a significant increase in the number of repatriations of ancestral remains compared to 2003–04. One cultural material collection was repatriated in 2004–05.

Repatriation

The repatriation of the Jack Absolom collection to the Wilyakali people near Broken Hill was completed in December 2004 at the Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council. The collection contained a large number of objects traditionally used by Aboriginal people for food gathering and preparation. Mr Absolom collected the objects during his travels in and around the Broken Hill area in the early 1960s. The NPWS bought the collection in the 1970s and has held it since then as part of its Aboriginal heritage protection initiative.

Protecting significant sites, objects and materials

DEC identifies and investigates sites of Aboriginal cultural significance and makes recommendations for their declaration as Aboriginal places under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This is a way of formally recognising and protecting the cultural attachment Aboriginal peoples have to land. At 30 June 2005, 43 Aboriginal places had been declared.

The most recent Aboriginal place declaration, the Rock Nature Reserve, near Wagga Wagga, was made in April 2005. The Rock is significant for the Wiradjuri people. It has a secret-sacred status for male initiation rites (the burbung) and is related to other significant sites through song lines.

DEC is currently investigating a number of Aboriginal place nominations, including the Coast Hospital Cemetery in Botany Bay National Park (NP); Quarantine Station in Sydney Harbour NP; Bujiwa Bay in Mougamarra Nature Reserve; Towlers Bay in Ku-ring-gai NP; and Brou Lake near Narooma.

DEC assisted the Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation to undertake an assessment of burials associated with the St Clair Aboriginal Mission site in the Hunter Valley. The project

■ CASE STUDY

Metro Repatriation Project

DEC coordinated the Metro Repatriation Project in partnership with Metropolitan and La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Councils, the Australian Museum and the National Museum of Australia. It was the largest single transfer of ancestral remains to a metropolitan NSW Aboriginal community by Australian museums.

The remains originated from a broad geographic area across the Sydney Metropolitan Region and many of the remains could not be reburied in their original locations. DEC and the land councils established a number of 'resting places', located within national parks, for burial of the repatriated ancestral remains. The Aboriginal communities will use the resting places in the future for the burial of other repatriated ancestral remains.



Reburial of ancestral remains as part of the Metro Repatriation Project, Coast Hospital Cemetery, Botany Bay National Park in May 2005.

was guided by the methods identified in Lost but not forgotten: a guide to methods of identifying Aboriginal unmarked graves, published by DEC in 2003. Burials were located, mapped and recorded using ground-penetrating

Conserving rock art

DEC is responsible for the protection of Aboriginal rock art throughout NSW. Rock art includes engravings, cave paintings and drawings, and is fragile and highly valued by Aboriginal communities. DEC's rock art conservation projects in 2004-05 included:

- uncovering and recording engravings at Vaucluse House
- pigment conservation and monitoring at Pokolbin State Forest
- recording and conservation of engravings at Waratah Track in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park
- · rock art monitoring at Colo Heights
- treatment of vandalism in a rock art shelter near Emu Plains.

Researching Aboriginal heritage

Aboriginal women's heritage

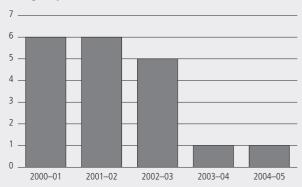
In 2004-05 DEC completed the Women's Heritage Series, a series of six booklets recording the oral histories of women from Bourke, Nambucca, Nowra, Wollongong, Port Stephens and Tumut. The booklets focus on individual women's life histories, providing an insight into local landscapes with the strongest cultural associations for women. In April 2005 the publications won the prestigious Energy Australia National Trust Heritage Award 2005 in the Trust's Cultural Heritage

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of Aboriginal place declarations (for sites of Aboriginal cultural significance) made under NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act

Definition: This indicator measures the number of places across NSW that were declared as Aboriginal places under the National Parks and Wildlife Act following DEC and community consultation on their level of cultural significance.

Aboriginal place declarations



Interpretation: To date, a total of 43 Aboriginal places have been declared and 18 Aboriginal place nominations are currently being investigated. The number of declarations does not always reflect the level of on-going investigative work as investigations may not be completed in a single reporting year or may find that a nominated place does not meet legislative requirements for declaration.

category. DEC is currently finalising the publications of two other booklets that record the oral histories of local Aboriginal women from Wagga Wagga and the Nepean region in Sydney's south-west. The booklets have helped empower local Aboriginal communities in defining and mapping their own heritage. They have provided a means by which older Aboriginal women can pass on to the younger generation a knowledge of community history. This has also

■ CASE STUDY

Prosecution for destruction of scarred tree

Scarred trees are trees from which a section of the bark and wood has been removed to make canoes, shields, containers (coolamons) and other utensils and weapons. Other scarred trees have toeholds cut in them, for hunting possums or gathering honey. Scarred trees are significant because they are testimonies to traditional Aboriginal activities, gathering places and beliefs.

On 20 April 2005, DEC successfully prosecuted Cowra Shire Council for knowingly destroying a scarred tree during clearing for a subdivision site in North Cowra. The council's actions breached sections 90(1) and 175(1) of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This was a landmark case as it was the first successful prosecution for a breach of a section 90 consent.



A DEC Aboriginal cultural heritage officer inspects a scarred tree.

Cowra Shire Council have undertaken to construct a shelter for the tree, in consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

allowed the recording of numerous women's heritage sites for the State's heritage inventories, which in the past have tended to favour the heritage of Aboriginal men.

The three-year Aboriginal Women's Fishing Project, initiated in 2005, will assess traditional Aboriginal cultural fishing practices in NSW. The project will encourage wider recognition of the traditional and cultural fishing heritage of Aboriginal peoples and communities, including their access to, and use of, fisheries resources.

Aboriginal post-contact heritage

In 2005 DEC completed the publication Mapping attachment: a spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage, which represents an important shift in the approach to Aboriginal heritage assessment and management in NSW. Aboriginal post-contact sites (post 1788) are significantly under-represented in heritage registers in NSW and the book demonstrates ways of recording these sites. The book includes maps and plots areas of previously unrecorded Aboriginal fishing places, camping places, hunting places, houses, swimming holes and pathways.

In late 2004 DEC published Shared landscapes, which reveals the major role of Aboriginal peoples in the pastoral industry of NSW and introduces the heritage sites associated with this experience.

DEC recognises that Aboriginal peoples are the custodians of their heritage and they are best placed to protect and manage their heritage values. To assist Aboriginal peoples to record and publish their heritage, DEC produced Talk to print, a guide for recording and publishing oral histories.

In 2005 DEC published the biography of Ray Kelly, the first Aboriginal employee of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Revival, renewal and return: Ray Kelly and the NSW Sites of Significance Survey represents the history of Aboriginal heritage conservation and it is a significant record of DEC's corporate history. Ray Kelly worked on the Sites of Significance Survey from 1973 to the mid 1980s.

Aboriginal cultural values in the NSW coastal zone

During 2004–05 DEC completed an audit to improve understanding of the range of Aboriginal cultural values of the NSW coastal zone, including their significance, condition and key threats. The audit was conducted in 24 coastal local government areas from the Queensland border to Gosford and from Wollongong to the Victorian border.

The audit found that:

- the condition of Aboriginal cultural heritage items along the NSW coastal zone is generally poor
- there are increasing natural and human-made threats to
- there is a need for qualitative data on the condition of recorded items
- there is a need for improved data and information on items and values associated with conservation reserves.

The audit recommended that the NSW coastal zone be recognised as an Aboriginal landscape and that Aboriginal cultural heritage management incorporate a holistic approach, including regional assessments.

Aboriginal heritage in the Illawarra

In June 2005, DEC published two studies of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Illawarra in partnership with local Aboriginal communities. A history of the Aboriginal people in the Illawarra from 1770 to 1970 provides a history of the Illawarra Aboriginal people from before European invasion to the evolution of the late twentieth-century Aboriginal political institutions. Murni, Dhungang Jirrar: Living in the *Illawarra*, the result of interviews with Aboriginal people combined with extensive background research, explores the spiritual and practical significance of marine, intertidal, estuarine, woodland and forest habitats to the Aboriginal peoples of the Illawarra.

■ CASE STUDY

Paroo River

In 2004-05, DEC conducted cultural mapping of Aboriginal traditional and contemporary values of the Paroo River. The studies assisted DEC's nomination of the wetlands of Nocoleche Nature Reserve and Paroo-Darling National Park to the Ramsar Convention in Uganda in 2005. The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement that recognises wetlands for their significant ecological and hydrological values and provides for the sustainable traditional uses of wetland resources.



King Charlie waterhole on the Paroo River, now protected as part of Nocoleche Native Reserve.

Community access to Aboriginal heritage information

DEC collects, manages and protects the heritage information of Aboriginal peoples and communities, including oral stories, language, songs, skills, knowledge of sites, historical and genealogical information, and information about plants and animals.

DEC's activities in this area in 2004-05 included:

- negotiations with Aboriginal communities to return Aboriginal knowledge collected by DEC during the Sites of Significance Survey, which commenced in 1973, to the descendants of Aboriginal people who participated in the
- developing means to support Aboriginal community access to the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)
- commissioning of a report on the management of Aboriginal knowledge, which will establish best-practice standards for the collection of Aboriginal heritage information
- completion of a number of knowledge management and sharing projects, including cultural renewal and expression camps for Aboriginal women and young people, and Aboriginal communal collection and ownership of oral histories and other stories
- commencement of the development of appropriate referral processes to enable contact between communities in relation to Aboriginal heritage knowledge.



Managing and improving the reserve system

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Planning to build the reserve system

Develop and implement a strategy to build and finance the reserve system, with emphasis on under-represented areas such as central and western NSW and marine environments

As part of DEC's strategy to build the reserve system, 118,896 hectares was formally added to it during 2004–05. In March 2005 the six-millionth hectare was reserved, which means that 7.6 per cent of NSW is now protected in the reserve system (page 47).

More than 350,000 hectares of land was reserved for conservation in the Brigalow Belt and Nandewar Conservation Area (page 48).

Assessing the reserve system

Systematically assess the natural and cultural values of the reserve system

During 2004–05, DEC completed assessments for five wild rivers that remain largely in their pristine state: the Kowmung, Upper Brogo, Upper Hastings and Forbes rivers and Washpool Creek. We also drafted the Wild Rivers Policy, which sets out requirements for consultation, acceptable use of wild rivers, management planning and monitoring, and managing Aboriginal cultural heritage. Other natural values assessment work included flora and fauna surveys (page 49); marine park planning and mapping (page 52); land wilderness assessments within the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions as part of the Western Region Assessment (see page 48). Aboriginal cultural heritage regional studies were also conducted in 2004–05 (page 43).

Improving management of the reserve system

Develop and implement an approach that promotes excellence in management of the reserve system, including the State of Parks program and plan of management review

In June 2005, DEC released *State of the Parks 2004* as part of an on-going program to better understand and respond to the condition of, and pressures facing, the park system (page 49).

DEC has commenced development of a park management framework, which will help ensure continual improvement in DEC's management of the cultural and natural heritage of NSW.

Managing cultural heritage within the reserve system

Develop and implement a strategic framework for cultural heritage management and interpretation within the reserve system

During the year DEC reviewed its Cultural Heritage Strategic Research Framework and continued to develop a Heritage Asset Management Strategy (page 52).

Building the reserve system

Additions to the reserve system

At 30 June 2005, DEC managed 677 parks and reserves in NSW under the banner of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). We are continuing to use this internationally recognised name in all of our parks and publications for visitors and the general public.

DEC acquires land for the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage values under the provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. In 2004-05 118,896 hectares was formally added to the reserve system which, in March 2005, included its six-millionth hectare.

More than 350,000 hectares of land was also reserved in community conservation areas in the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions (page 48).

Significant additions to the reserve system during the year include:

- a major addition to the eastern edge of Guy Fawkes River National Park through the acquisition of strategic Crown leases and freehold property in the mountainous region of the eastern escarpment, consolidating important links through regional corridors and key fauna habitats to Chaelundi National Park
- enhancement of the Dananbilla/Illunie Protected Area Network in the South Western Slopes Bioregion, including additions to Dananbilla (84 hectares) and Koorawatha (47 hectares) nature reserves and the establishment of the Illunie (721 hectares) and Gungewalla (142 hectares) nature reserves. The network addresses the critical protection of the grassy woodlands of the NSW southwest slopes
- Illawarra Escarpment Corridor additions to Garawarra State Conservation Area (49 hectares), Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area (485 hectares) and Royal National Park (11 hectares). These additions comprise part of a wildlife corridor stretching from Nowra to Royal National Park, contributing to a chain of conservation reserves extending from Queensland to the Victorian border
- the new Kalyarr National Park (8173 hectares), 30 kilometres west of Hay, protecting environments typical of the western part of the Riverina Bioregion, which are poorly represented in the conservation reserve system.

Land acquisitions

2004–05 was the second year of a three-year acquisition program focusing on meeting the criteria of acid sulphate hotspots, fish breeding habitats, coastal lakes, and wetlands in the Directory of Australian Wetlands. Four wetland properties totalling 634 hectares were acquired on the NSW north coast.

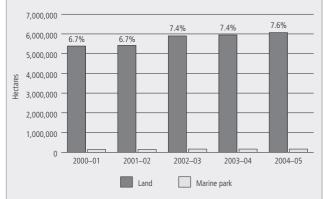
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Area of land managed by DEC for conservation outcomes

Definition: This indicator measures:

- the percentage of land in NSW that is managed to achieve conservation outcomes
- the area in hectares of the reserve system managed by DEC
- the area in hectares of marine parks managed by DEC as part of the Marine Parks Authority
- the percentage of each NSW Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion managed by DEC.

Land and marine areas (percentage) managed by DEC



Proportion of NSW bioregions protected in the NSW parks system

NSW IBRA Bioregion	% protected
Australian Alps	81.8
Brigalow Belt South	2.6
Broken Hill Complex	2.0
Channel Country	9.4
Cobar Peneplain	2.1
Darling Riverine Plains	1.5
Mulga Lands	3.2
Murray–Darling Depression	5.5
NSW North Coast	23.2
NSW South Western Slopes	1.7
Nandewar	2.0
New England Tableland	8.6
Riverina	0.7
Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields	11.1
South East Corner	42.3
South Eastern Highlands	14.4
Sydney Basin	37.0
Total NSW landscape	7.6

Interpretation: During 2004–05, over 118,000 hectares of land was formally added to the reserve system. DEC now manages over six million hectares of land in NSW, which represents 7.6% of the state's total area. DEC also manages 163,250 hectares in marine parks as part of the Marine Parks Authority. Revised IBRA (version 6) bioregion boundaries were used in calculating the proportion of NSW bioregions protected figures, and in some cases may have resulted in an apparent reduction from the figure provided in previous years.

A three-year program of purchasing private properties within the declared World Heritage eucalypt forests of the Greater Blue Mountains Area and the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves commenced this year with the purchase of a 668-hectare property to link the Nattai and Blue Mountains national parks.

In 2004-05, significant properties were also acquired for addition to Ledknapper (14,187 hectares), Narran Lake (7240 hectares) and Macquarie Marshes (6887 hectares) nature reserves and Mount Kaputar National Park (300 hectares).

In addition, DEC continued to negotiate the purchase of Yanga Station, the single largest freehold property in NSW (80,000 hectares), for the establishment of a new national

Through the Dunphy Wilderness Fund and the Northern Regional Forest Agreement, DEC has also acquired Crown leases to consolidate the Guy Fawkes River (2836 hectares), Nymboida (1732 hectares) and Curracubundi (2640 hectares) national parks, the Copeland Tops State Conservation Area (219 hectares) and the Cataract State Conservation Area and National Park (2244 hectares).

Conserving wilderness areas

Wilderness is defined as a large natural area of land which, together with its native plant and animal communities, is in a relatively natural state and has not been substantially modified by human activity, or is capable of restoration.

During the year, approximately 193,000 hectares in the Yengo areas were assessed and 134.900 hectares have been identified as containing wilderness values. At June 30. DEC had considered all public submissions on the assessment report.

Assessment of the Mount Kaputar, Bebo and Pilliga regions for wilderness values was completed in 2004-05. These assessment areas lie partly or wholly within the Brigalow Belt South and Nandewar bioregions, which have been under investigation as part of a Western Regional Assessment (WRA).

Dunphy Wilderness Fund

The Dunphy Wilderness Fund (DWF) is overseen by representatives from DEC, Nature Conservation Council, Colong Foundation for Wilderness and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. The Foundation has taken the lead in a public fundraising campaign for the fund and last year it raised funds to acquire a 1000-hectare property adjacent to Washpool National Park.

■ CASE STUDY

Brigalow and Nandewar community conservation area

The single biggest addition to the reserve system in Western NSW was made this year when Parliament passed the Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Area Act 2005. This Act was the culmination of an extensive process of five years of scientific study, community consultation and socioeconomic analysis by DEC staff.

More than 350,000 hectares of land was reserved for conservation in a Community Conservation Area (CCA), a new type of reserve made up of four zones, three of which will be managed for conservation by DEC.

The CCA increases existing levels of permanent protection from 3.4% cent to 9.5% for the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion and from 0.9% to 2% for Nandewar.

The decision to conserve this land will protect habitat for a wide range of animals, from koalas and squirrel gliders, to turquoise parrots, glossy black cockatoos and significant remnant colonies of mallee fowl.

More than 20,000 hectares of the CCA is zoned for management consistent with an Aboriginal area under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

The Bill came with an \$80-million package to ensure an appropriate balance between conservation and sustainable industries which provide jobs in the timber, gas, minerals and apiary sectors.



The Brigalow Belt South Bioregion is a stronghold for the vulnerable barking owl including the highest population of the species in NSW.

Managing the reserve system

DEC is developing a park management framework to help ensure continual improvement in DEC's management of the cultural and natural heritage of NSW through improved information management. In implementing the recommendations of the Audit Office Performance Audit, the framework will incorporate plans of management and the State of the Parks program.

State of the Parks 2004

In June 2005, DEC released State of the Parks 2004, a public report based on a rigorous survey of all aspects of management of the NSW park system. The report is part of an on-going State of the Parks program to better understand and respond to the condition of the park system and the pressures it faces. While this is a complex process, and will be further refined over time, the system has attracted national and international attention for the valuable contribution it has made to understanding management effectiveness in protected areas.

Overall, the report demonstrates that DEC is doing a good job in managing NSW's large and diverse parks system. DEC will continue to put emphasis on the management of pest animals, weeds, fire, visitors and cultural heritage. More details are available on DEC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Plans of management

DEC is required by the National Parks and Wildlife Act to prepare a plan of management for each park and reserve. In 2004–05, the Minister for the Environment adopted 20 new plans of management for 42 areas, including:

- the Tweed Caldera parks and reserves
- Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area
- Berowra Valley Regional Park
- the Gibraltar Range group of parks
- Yanununbeyan National Park, Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area.

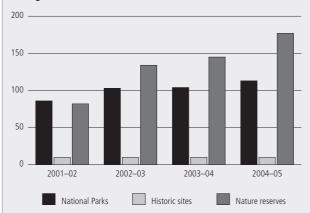
In addition, 23 plans covering 28 areas had been placed on public exhibition but were not yet adopted at 30 June 2005.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of national parks, historic sites and nature reserves covered by a plan of management or where a draft plan has been on exhibition

Definition: This indicator measures the cumulative total of national parks, nature reserves and historic sites with adopted or exhibited plans of management.

Parks and reserves with adopted or exhibited plans of management



Interpretation: The last year shows a continuing steady increase, with 41 new plans of management for national parks and nature reserves, and one for a historic site. Priority will be given to finalising the plans which have been on exhibition before commencing new plans. In addition 22 state conservation areas, two Aboriginal areas and three regional parks were covered by an adopted or exhibited plan of management.

Assessing wildlife values

At 30 June 2005, nearly 500,000 hectares of reserves had been surveyed as part of the reserve flora and fauna survey program. The program to comprehensively survey all fauna groups and vegetation across the reserve system will allow DEC to understand the contribution made by national parks to the conservation of species, and will inform conservation priorities and park management.

Fauna survey reports that detail the outcome of the program are available for the reserves at Nattai, Bargo, Southern Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd, North-eastern Wollemi, Northern Yengo, Werakata, Lane Cove and Manobalia. Supporting vegetation mapping and habitat models have also been produced for Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area and the Nattai and Bargo reserves.

These surveys have identified new locations and habitats for brush-tailed rock-wallaby, regent honeyeater, koala, squirrel gliders, large forest owls, broad-headed snake and many others. Some of these populations are now subject to specific habitat management programs and park managers use the survey findings in their pest, fire and education activities.

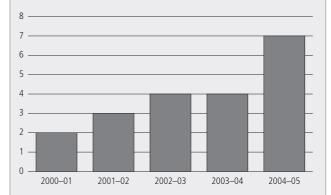
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for co-management of protected areas

Definition: DEC works with Aboriginal communities to incorporate cultural practices into the management of parks and reserves under co-management arrangements. These agreements are guided and formalised under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. This indicator shows the number of formal co-management agreements in place with Aboriginal communities for the management of protected areas, including Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.

Note that DEC also engages in a broad range of informal joint management mechanisms. However, given the localised nature of many of them, these informal arrangements are difficult to measure accurately and have not been included in this indicator.

Formal agreements with Aboriginal communities for comanagement of protected areas



Interpretation: During 2004–05, co-management agreements were formalised for the Mt Grenfell Historic Site; the Goobang National Park and Snake Rock Aboriginal Area Memorandum of Understanding with Bogan River – Peak Hill Traditional Owners; and Pilliga Nature Reserve Memorandum of Understanding. Successful co-management arrangements exist for Mutawintji (since September 1998), Arakwal (October 2001), Mungo (March 2001) and Kinchega (July 2002) national parks.

Aboriginal community involvement

Helping Aboriginal peoples to re-establish their relationship with the landscape is one of DEC's key areas of work. For thousands of years, maintaining culture has sustained Aboriginal families and societies and assisted them to care for the land and environment. A major influence on Aboriginal disadvantage is the loss of a sense of place (country) and spiritual connectedness. The recognition, promotion and practice of culture and maintaining the links between people and country are central to overcoming many of the issues facing Aboriginal communities in NSW.

Co-management

Under co-management arrangements, Aboriginal peoples gain responsibility for park management or advise DEC on its management of the park. Formal co-management options include DEC returning a protected area to its original Aboriginal owners and leasing it back, memorandums of understanding between DEC and Aboriginal communities, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, and Aboriginal participation on existing management committees or on specifically created Aboriginal advisory committees.

Significant achievements under these co-management arrangements in the last year included:

- a memorandum of understanding signed in February 2005 between DEC and the Bogan River – Peak Hill Traditional Owners that establishes an Aboriginal Advisory Group and a commitment to work cooperatively in the management of the Goobang National Park and Snake Rock Aboriginal Area.
- development and exhibition of the draft Plan of Management for Arakwal National Park, involving extensive input from the Arakwal people.
- commencement of lease negotiations for the creation of a new Aboriginal-owned reserve at Stockton Bight

■ CASE STUDY

Mount Grenfell Historic Site

In July 2004, Mt Grenfell Historic Site, an Aboriginal rock art site near Cobar, was returned to the Ngiyampaa Wangaaypuwan people and leased back to the Minister for the Environment.

In 2005 the Mt Grenfell Historic Site Board of Management was jointly appointed by the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, enabling DEC and Ngiyampaa people to manage the site together.

DEC and the Aboriginal owners have also agreed on a three-year infrastructure and maintenance program, which will assist in laying a foundation for cooperative management. The first year of that program has involved cultural heritage assessments, oral history programs and ethnobotanical surveys.



Elaine Ohlsen and Environment Minister Bob Debus signing the handback agreement.

- creation of new reserves in the Brigalow Belt South that will protect forests of high cultural significance to Aboriginal peoples and will be managed to support Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural practices
- work commenced on the development of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with Gundungurra communities (around Warragamba, Nattai and part of the Blue Mountains Country)
- formation of the Pilliga Nature Reserve Aboriginal Consultative Committee
- reconstitution of the 19 National Parks advisory committees to include at least two Aboriginal community members to advise on cultural heritage issues.

Other achievements through less formal co-management arrangements during 2004-05 included:

- DEC officers and the Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council working together on cooperative management in the Seal Rocks additions to Myall Lakes National Park, including a boundary survey of Seal Rocks, employment of two trainee field officers and training courses for members of the Aboriginal community in weed control and bush regeneration techniques
- the gathering at Yarriabini National Park and Ngambaa Nature Reserve near Macksville on the state's north coast of more than 40 local Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal peoples to discuss and develop ways to manage and protect their Aboriginal cultural heritage
- six co-management working forums conducted across the Central Coast, Hunter and the Greater Blue Mountains as the basis for on-going expression of cultural heritage values within protected areas
- collection management workshops conducted by the National Museum at Mungo National Park for members of the Barkindtji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngyiampaa Traditional Tribal Groups. The collection included fragile wooden objects, secret sacred objects, stone artefacts, megafauna. and human remains dating to before 18,000 BC
- Culgoa National Park where, in close consultation with the traditional owners, the Morowari, DEC has been working to construct a camping area for the specific use of the Morowari community.

■ CASE STUDY

The Wilcannia project

During 2004–05, DEC implemented a two-year employment project to train members of the Wilcannia Aboriginal community in natural and cultural heritage management, and provide opportunities for direct involvement in management activities across the Paroo Darling National Park. Training for ten participants involved a variety of field-based maintenance, administrative duties and guiding activities, with training tailored to individual needs and primarily sourced through local providers in far west NSW.

Community conservation

Parks are part of the landscape of the broader community. Partnerships with neighbours and communities are essential for good park management and to improve support for our conservation efforts. DEC has established a number of management planning systems to ensure that we identify, prioritise and achieve our conservation outcomes in consultation with the community.

National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

The National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council is constituted under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and advises the Minister for the Environment on a range of issues, including the management of national parks and reserves, the protection of wildlife, conservation agreements and wilderness areas. Its membership is set out under the Act and is representative of parks' key stakeholder groups. A full list of members and the groups they represent can be found at Appendix 5, page 143.

Under the Act, the council has specific responsibilities to consider and advise the Minister for the Environment on plans of management and any representations received in response to public exhibitions of a park management plan. During 2004–05, the council considered and reported on 20 plans of management for 25 DEC-managed areas.

Advisory committees

Advisory committees provide on-going community and neighbour involvement in DEC operations in parks. As representatives of the local community, the advisory committee members maintain contact with other groups and organisations such as local government, Aboriginal communities, tourism associations, conservation groups, neighbours and outdoor recreation groups. For a full list of regional advisory committees and members, see Appendix 5, page 143.

In 2004–05, the reconstitution of all advisory committees was finalised, with members of these newly constituted committees appointed by the Minister until June 2008.

The Annual Advisory Committees Conference was held in Sydney on 13–15 May with the major themes of climate change and engaging the community.



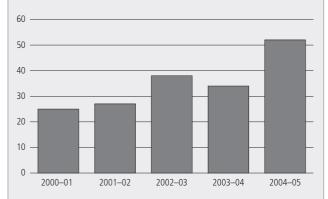
Peery Lake, protected by Paroo-Darling National Park, where DEC trained members of the local Aboriginal community in park management.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of historic heritage sites where conservation works have been undertaken

Definition: This indicator measures the number of historic heritage sites on parks and reserves where DEC has undertaken conservation works under its Heritage Assets Maintenance Program (HAMP). Through HAMP, DEC provides coordinated program funding for historic heritage maintenance and conservation at historic places within the conservation reserve system. The priorities for the allocation of HAMP funding include the heritage significance of the place or landscape; the ability of the place to contribute to regional and rural economies and communities; and the potential use of the place.

Number of historic heritage sites where conservation work has been undertaken



Interpretation: The number of sites where conservation work was undertaken increased substantially in comparison to previous years. 52 projects, worth more than \$2 million, were completed in 2004–05, an increase of 26 projects. The large increase reflects the tighter guidelines and processes put in place in 2002–05 for the review of project progress and the reallocation of unspent project funds. The reallocation alone enabled an additional 12 projects to be completed by 30 June 2005.

The projects funded through HAMP in 2004–05 included:

- the preparation of conservation management plans for a variety of historic places, including the Royal National Park Cabins, Goat Island, Neilsen Park, Youlsdales Hut, Mount Maid Gold Mine, Trial Bay Gaol, Kosciuszko Huts, Maynggu Ganai, Seaman's Hut and Venables Hut
- conservation works at Hartley Historic Site, Bantry Bay, Bobbin Head, Scheyville, South Head Searchlight, Middle Head Cottages, Trial Bay Gaol, Greencape Lightstation, Throsby Park, Kinchega, Olive Downs and a wide range of buildings at Hill End Historic Site
- maintenance and catch-up works at Cape Byron, Hill End Historic Site, Audley Post Office, Constables Cabin and Gap Bluff Cottages.

Conservation Volunteers Program

Volunteers are essential partners in achieving conservation and give many hours of work each year in conservation activities across NSW, both on- and off-park. During 2004–05, DEC and Conservation Volunteers Australia worked together to engage the broader community in practical, educative and on-ground conservation projects in 19 national parks and nature reserves. These projects achieved outstanding results including:

- 402 volunteer days
- planting 2196 trees
- propagating 200 plants
- repairing 28,000 metres of tracks
- removing 700 metres of fences
- removing exotic weeds from 11.2 hectares of land.

Marine park planning and mapping

DEC jointly manages marine parks with the Department of Primary Industries through the Marine Parks Authority (MPA), which is responsible for their selection, declaration, management and zoning. In 2004–05, the MPA focused on finalising zoning and operational plans for Lord Howe Island Marine Park and Cape Byron Marine Park and habitat mapping at Solitary Islands Marine Park.

Following detailed and extensive public consultation, the final zoning plan regulation and a plain English guide were developed with a Draft Operational Plan for the Lord Howe Island Marine Park, coming into force in December 2004. The zoning plan protects the biodiversity of the Lord Howe Island area while continuing to provide access to popular activities like recreational fishing, diving, guided tours, boating and surfing.

Major activities at Cape Byron Marine Park included release of the draft zoning plan and draft operational plan for public consultation on 6 August 2004. As at 30 June 2005, analysis of the more than 3000 submissions and preparation of a submissions report by the authority was underway.

The focus of marine park habitat mapping in 2004–05 has been Solitary Islands Marine Park and collection of additional information in the Manning Shelf bioregion. A bathymetric sidescan sonar (125 kHz GeoSwath hydroacoustic system) has now been mounted on coastal vessels to survey seabed habitats in NSW marine parks and other coastal waters.

Protecting the reserve system

Fire management

DEC is responsible for the management of some of the most rugged and remote bushfire-prone country in the world.

Under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 and the Rural Fires Act 1997 DEC has statutory responsibilities relating to the protection of human life, property, and natural and cultural heritage values from bushfires on lands it manages. Under the provisions of the NSW Biodiversity Strategy, DEC is also a lead agency in improving fire management regimes across the state.

DEC has more than 900 trained fire-fighters and over 450 incident management trained staff with a full range of vehicles, plant, equipment and aircraft for fire management operations, particularly in remote areas.

Prevention and mitigation

During 2004–05, DEC was able to conduct prescribed burning and fuel reduction activities over more than 36,000 hectares on parks and reserves, and around an additional 5000 hectares on neighbouring lands. In addition hazard reduction through other means, such as slashing, was carried out over around 11,000 hectares on parks.

Regular maintenance was also undertaken on over 12,500 kilometres of DEC fire trails during the year.

Prescribed burning operations on DEC-managed lands

Year	Area burned (ha)	Number of burns	
2000–01	19,733	82	
2001–02	31,703	103	
2002–03	42,827	173	
2003–04	65,451	340	
2004–05	41,037	148	

Since 2000–01, DEC has given high priority to increasing its hazard reduction program. As hazard reduction burning activities are weather dependent it is often difficult to achieve all planned activities. Prevailing weather patterns during 2003–04 were particularly favourable for hazard reduction burning activities. Consequently DEC was able to complete more of its reduction program with a greater number of burns and significantly increased area of hazard reduction during that year. Weather during 2004-05 was less conducive to hazard reduction burning hence the number of operations and area treated returned to normal levels.

Each year DEC updates its Fire Management Manual to ensure it remains relevant and effective. This year's update will be released in 2005.

Our fire-fighter health and fitness program is an important safety initiative, based on national and international standards consisting of annual medical assessment and fitness tests. All DEC fire-fighters are required to undertake and pass a task-based assessment before the beginning of the oncoming fire season.

DEC is a registered training authority (RTO) for delivery of fire and incident management training under the Public Safety Training Package. As an RTO, DEC delivers nationally recognised fire and incident training and assesses competencies of fire-fighters and incident managers within the organisation.

DEC uses reserve fire management strategies as the basis for preparing fire management works schedules and bushfire suppression maps, two essential tools in DEC's approach to fire management planning. DEC works with District Bushfire Management Committees across the state to ensure that our strategies are compatible with each district's bushfire management plans. During 2004–05, 34 reserve fire management strategies were adopted, bringing the total to 89. In addition, a further 110 reserve fire management strategies were being finalised at 30 June 2005.

We are committed to cooperative and coordinated firefighting with the NSW Fire Brigades, NSW Rural Fire Service. Forests NSW and the Sydney Catchment Authority. DEC is a member of the NSW Bush Fire Coordinating Committee, and its various sub-committees, and the Australasian Fire Authorities Council. DEC has representation on 97 per cent of the state's District Bushfire Management Committees.

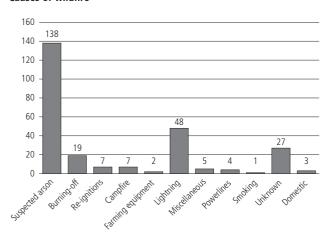
Wildfires on parks and reserves

Year	Fires on reserves	Reserve area burned (hectares)	% of reserve burned
1995–96	189	15,192	0.35
1996–97	194	12,670	0.27
1997–98	466	236,152	4.73
1998–99	189	14,195	0.28
1999–2000	166	6,715	0.13
2000-01	396	217,980	4.15
2001–02	356	595,388	11.04
2002–03	433	1,001,854	16.98
2003–04	263	38,120	0.64
2004–05	211	16,887	0.27

2004-05 Bushfire Season

In 2004–05, 211 fires affected DEC-managed parks and reserves, of which 40 spread to parks from neighbouring lands and 20 fires escaped DEC estate. In addition, DEC fire-fighters assisted on 49 off-park fires. 2004–05 was a relatively quiet fire year, as high humidity and weather conditions kept the threat of bushfires to a minimum over the warmer months.

Causes of wildfire

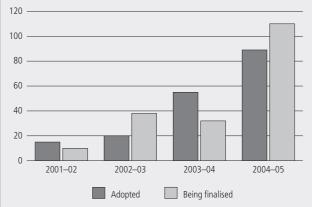


■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number of fire management strategies (adopted and being finalised)

Definition: This indicator measures the number of fire management strategies that have been adopted under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, or were being finalised (either out for public comment or awaiting formal adoption) at 30 June 2005.

Fire management strategies (adopted and being finalised)



Interpretation: DEC has given priority to the development of fire management strategies across the reserve system. Consequently, effort in this area over the past two years has been significant, with 34 fire management strategies adopted this year (69 over the last two years), and 78 being finalised (more than double the number last year).

Pest animal and weed control

Management of pest animals and weeds is a high priority for DEC and expenditure on their control reached a record \$18 million in 2004–05. The State of the Parks Report 2004 showed that our pest animal and weed control programs were either effectively holding the line or reducing pest animal and weed impacts in more than 90 per cent of our parks.

As pest animals and weeds are a common area of concern for farmers and conservationists alike, DEC works with neighbours and other land managers on cooperative pest animal and weed control programs.

Widespread and abundant **locust hatchings** during spring 2004 were declared an agricultural emergency under the State Disaster Plan. To support a multi-agency locust control campaign, DEC undertook locust control in national parks for the first time in its history.

DEC is the host agency for the **National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Program**, part of the Weeds of National Significance initiative. During 2004–05, a draft threat abatement plan for bitou bush in NSW was placed on public exhibition and we continued the release and assessment of biological control agents.

The **Shorebird Program** is one of the most important examples of across-tenure pest animal control in NSW. Each year DEC, Department of Lands, local councils, rural lands protection boards and private landholders combine to control foxes and monitor breeding success at the 22 most important breeding sites of four threatened shorebirds: the little tern, pied oystercatcher, beach stone-curlew and hooded plover. Prior to these fox control programs, 100 per cent mortality had been observed at many sites. In 2004–05, mortality rates due to foxes were significantly reduced, with estimates of 7.6 per cent, 10.5 per cent, 25 per cent and 4.2 per cent for these species respectively.

DEC is conducting research to develop more effective methods of controlling **wild dogs**. For example, in southern NSW, a synthetic lure has been developed to attract wild dogs and foxes to bait stations.

During 2004–05, DEC also conducted research to measure the impact of aerial 1080 baiting on the spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*), the native animal considered to be most at risk from being harmed by these baits. The results from the first stage of this project suggest that the impacts on this threatened species, in areas where aerial baiting has occurred over a long period, are minimal.



Sustainable public use of the reserve system

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Sustainable and appropriate use of national parks

Develop a policy and strategic planning framework for sustainable and culturally appropriate use of national parks

During 2005 DEC received public submissions on our sustainable visitation plan, Living Parks (right). The plan recognises the importance of parks for people and, through excellence in visitor management, facilities and services, aims to enhance the experience of park visitors and improve community awareness of the natural and cultural heritage values of the state's parks.

Total asset management

Put in place a total asset management approach for reserves

DEC prepared and has begun to implement the six stages of a new asset maintenance system. The key components for notification and work orders will be the first stage of implementation.

The new computerised Asset Maintenance System was piloted in Gosford, enabling DEC staff to process all maintenance and land management operations through the new system. The Gosford office is now able to obtain reports on all aspects of field operations, including resource and plant utilisation, workload, forward maintenance programs, and safety inspections.

Managing facilities

In 2004–05, DEC continued to build, upgrade and maintain its visitor facilities across the state to provide an improved community experience and maintain conservation outcomes in visitor areas. Significant achievements included:

- refurbishment of the Sea Acres Rainforest Centre and café as well as extensive up-grading of the 1.3-kilometre timber boardwalk and information/interpretive signs
- rejuvenation of Barrenjoey Lighthouse
- completion of major campground facilities in Myall Lakes National Park including walking tracks, a surf viewing platform, information shelters and boards
- installation of advanced composting and batch toilet systems in Yuraygir National Park to replace all pit toilets
- construction of a new visitor centre and office at White Cliffs, designed on 'clean and green' principles and featuring grid-connected solar power generation, rainwater recycling and energy-efficient air conditioning.

Lane Cove River Tourist Park also became one of only four 'silver gumnut' standard providers under the NSW Caravan and Camping Association umbrella, a significant recognition of the value of the visitor facilities.

Visitors

Living Parks

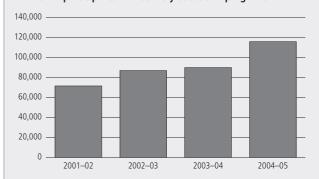
Living Parks is a sustainable visitation plan that recognises the importance of parks for people. It aims to enhance the experience of park visitors and improve community awareness of the natural and cultural heritage values of the state's parks through excellence in visitor management, facilities and services. The plan reflects the NSW Government's commitment to conserving and protecting unique natural and cultural values, while ensuring sustainable and culturally appropriate enjoyment of parks.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

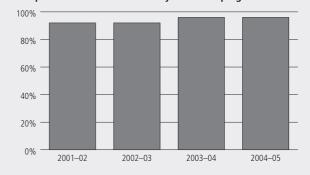
Number of participants in Discovery education programs and percentage satisfied

Definition: This measure indicates the number of participants in on-park and outreach activities across all activities of the Discovery program. It also indicates the percentage of a surveyed sample of participants satisfied with their Discovery education experience. It is DEC policy to survey at least 10% of participants in each regional program over the year.

Number of participants in Discovery education programs



Participants satisfied with Discovery education programs



Interpretation: The Discovery Program continues to experience steady growth in participation rates across the state, particularly in school programs. The level of satisfaction of surveyed participants remains high, demonstrating that the program remains engaging and enjoyable for participants.

Living Parks provides opportunities to establish new partnerships between DEC, the private and public sectors, Aboriginal communities and the general community. It also provides a framework for sustainable investment in NSW parks, to provide benefits for local and regional economies and to generate opportunities for Aboriginal involvement in visitor management.

The draft plan was released for consultation between February and April 2005. Sixty-eight submissions were received and these are being considered by a state-wide working group in drafting the final plan.

Education programs

The **National Parks Discovery Program** is a state-wide program that provides education opportunities through walks, talks and tours in parks as well as through a range of outreach activities. It fosters understanding and appreciation of the diversity of natural, Aboriginal cultural heritage and historic heritage values in national parks and reserves, and encourages behaviours that help sustain the environment. DEC employs local people with appropriate backgrounds as Discovery coordinators and Discovery rangers and supports volunteer programs to deliver these programs to local communities, visitors and schools.

Some 2639 Discovery programs were conducted across NSW in 2004–05 and, for the first time, the number of participants exceeded 100,000.

Envirothon is an environmental interpretation competition for Year 11 students in NSW public schools undertaken by DEC in partnership with the Department of Education and Training. In 2004–05, more than 250 students from across the state competed in regional competitions conducted by DET Environmental Education Centres, with over 60 students and staff engaged in the final of the competition. The state final of Envirothon 2004 was conducted during December and was won by Coffs Harbour High School.

Access and services for people with a disability

During the year DEC made improvements to providing access and services for people with disabilities, including:

- wheelchair access, including wheelchair-accessible picnic facilities, installed in Berowra Valley Regional Park. These facilities are an example of new visitor-friendly furniture for all park visitors, outlined in the new Park facilities design manual completed in 2004–05
- a new boardwalk enabling access by wheelchair to the state's tallest tree, the Grandis, in Myall Lakes National Park. The boardwalk, opened by Great Lakes Shire Council Mayor John Chadban, included new interpretative materials and improved car parking
- wheelchair access to all camping facilities at Rummery Park camping area in Whian Whian State Conservation Area
- a new wheelchair-accessible boardwalk installed at Wingham Brush Nature Reserve and new wheelchairaccessible toilets at Brimbin Nature Reserve.

In addition, DEC renewed contracts with Autism Spectrum, providing DEC employment to teams of people with disabilities.

Commercial activities

Tourism

DEC and the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation were major sponsors of the 11th National Ecotourism Australia Conference held in the Blue Mountains in November 2004. The conference is the peak Australian Ecotourism conference and attracted delegates from government, research institutions and industry, both local and overseas.

The NSW Government's 'Our Natural Treasures' Nature Tourism Plan identifies the need for improved internet-based communications for nature-based experiences. During 2004–05, DEC participated on the inter-agency **Nature** Based Tourism Working Group to examine ways to improve inter-agency web-based information relating to recreation and tourism opportunities on public reserve lands. The working group identified a strategy to improve communications and is improving linkages between existing DEC, Forests NSW and Tourism NSW websites as well as updating the Best Bush Map.

DEC continues to participate in research undertaken by the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre. Research projects in 2004-05 included:

- assessment of interpretation outcomes: the development and refinement of methodology and evaluation tools for tourism practitioners
- systematic and strategic collection and use of visitor information in protected area management
- visitor surveillance and compliance in protected areas
- managing legal risk in protected areas tourism
- sustainable visitor use of protected areas visitor impact indicators
- protected areas impact modelling.

Following the success of the research-based ecotourism offered at Montague Island, DEC is working cooperatively with Conservation Volunteers Australia to promote 'homestead eco-tourism' in the far west of the state, focusing on properties such as Mt Wood.

Park use fees

DEC's park use fee program helps to maintain and improve visitor facilities and services, as well as assisting in conserving threatened species and their habitats, protecting sites of cultural and heritage significance, and carrying out pest and weed control programs. The program includes day entry, annual pass and camping fees. Day entry fees apply to only 44 of 677 parks and reserves across the state.

In 2004–05, DEC raised over \$17.1 million from these fees including \$11,676,000 in day use and annual pass fees and \$5,428,000 in camping fees and cabin letting.

Leasing and property management

DEC has an extensive commercial property and leasing portfolio, which generated \$11,563,000 in revenue during 2004-05.

During the year, DEC undertook commercial negotiations with Perisher Blue Pty Ltd through the Department of Commerce to determine if agreement could be reached for the development rights and lease over the 800-bed village at Perisher Valley.

The government is committed to the conservation of the Quarantine Station and has determined that the adaptive reuse of the site provides the best opportunity to ensure the long-term conservation and presentation of its heritage values. In January 2005, following extensive public consultation and exhaustive conservation studies and planning, an amendment was made to the 2000 Conditional Agreement for Lease of the North Head Quarantine Station between the Minister and Mawland Hotel Management Pty Ltd. The purpose of the proposed lease arrangement is to ensure that the site is conserved, maintained, adapted and used in a way that fits the cultural significance of the site.

Other key achievements during 2004–05 included:

- new leases granted for a cafe/restaurant at Berowra Waters and for the cafe within the Jindabyne Visitor Centre
- licences issued for the Smoky Cape Bed and Breakfast and for air space for the Scenic Skyway in Blue Mountains National Park
- a number of successful conservation leases for Hill End Historic Site, including Dennington's Cottage and English

A five-year restoration of Dennington Cottage was completed during 2004–05. The project, commenced in 2000, involved restoring the original building to a standard consistent with the Conservation Management Strategy for the premises. In 2002, the works won a gold Heritage Award. All these conservation works were funded by the lessee in return for the granting in 2005 of a long-term lease for the property.

DEC was one of the sponsors for the review of telecommunication fees on Crown lands by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of NSW during the year. It is hoped the introduction of a standardised fee will assist in the on-going licensing of telecommunication facilities on reserved lands.



Sustainable consumption, production, resource use and waste management

The DEC *Corporate Plan 2004–06* identified the following **strategic focus areas** and **outcomes** required to achieve our corporate goal of 'Sustainable consumption, production, resource use and waste management'.

Strategic focus area	Outcomes
Sustainability reflected in government and busi decisions and operations	ness Government is a recognised leader in sustainable management of its processes, operations and public assets
	Business adopts sustainability as a core value
Resource conservation improved	Individuals and businesses minimise resource use and environmental impacts, recover resources and appropriately dispose of harmful waste

In this chapter

Sustainability reflected in government and business decisions and operations

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Supporting the waste avoidance and resource	
recovery strategy	65
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Sustainability reflected in government and business decisions and operations

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Promoting sustainability in government planning

Actively contribute to the government's metropolitan and regional planning strategies to promote sustainability principles and environmental protection

During 2004–05, DEC contributed to the on-going development of the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy, in areas including transport, recycled water, planning for new release areas, and the building sustainability index (BASIX), to ensure environment protection and conservation are considered upfront in the planning process.

In the north-west and south-west Sydney growth sectors, DEC worked with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources to identify and protect significant portions of endangered Cumberland Plain vegetation, and to develop planning controls such as water-sensitive urban design, that assist in delivering improved ecosystem health for South Creek.

Promoting sustainability in the public sector

Guide purchasing and resource use by government agencies towards more sustainable practices

DEC worked at the individual and whole-of-government level to promote sustainable buying and resource use in state government. Under the NSW Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP), DEC released *Guidelines to assist reporting WRAPP progress for 2003–2005* and provided training to staff from 50 government agencies (page 61).

DEC developed and launched www.greengoods.nsw.gov.au to make green purchasing easier through sourcing goods and providing other assistance. DEC also assisted the Department of Commerce in developing sustainability requirements for NSW Government contracts worth approximately \$300 million.

DEC partnered with the Local Government and Shires Association to launch the Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance (page 61). The Buying Green Expo organised by DEC brought together leaders in 'green' purchasing, from the international to the local government level, with suppliers of 'green' products (page 61).

Minimising DEC's own environmental impact

Minimise DEC's own environmental impact in terms of energy, water and paper consumption

The world-first Australian Building Greenhouse Rating Scheme ranked DEC as the leading NSW agency for energy efficiency in office buildings. For further information on the scheme and on our 'Buy recycled' program and Fleet Environmental Improvement Plan to reduce fuel consumption and vehicle emissions, see page 75.

Promoting sustainability in business

Work with businesses to move them towards sustainable practices

This year, DEC continued the successful Industry Partnership Program, which since 2001 has worked with 460 businesses in 15 industry sectors to tackle sustainable practices across a range of areas including waste, pollution and energy (page 62). We also formed alliances with leading players in industry sectors, such as commercial property owners and managers, to help enhance sustainability.

We worked with industry to improve access to recycling services and assist the development of recycled products to substitute for virgin materials (page 62).

DEC continued to work with industry to ensure it takes responsibility for the waste its products generate and to develop schemes for waste named in the Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2004 (page 62).

Sustainability in government

Government's WRAPP performance

State government agencies and state-owned corporations purchase a wide variety of goods and services for their operations and the state's capital works. DEC assists these agencies to reduce waste and implement 'green' procurement policies. A key part of this is the development and implementation of a waste reduction and purchasing plan by each agency under the NSW Government Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP).

Biennial reporting of WRAPP performance means that DEC will receive figures for 2004 and 2005 later in 2005. Data reported for 2002 and 2003 indicated that substantial opportunities remain to divert further large quantities of material for recycling (such as cardboard and office paper), and to close the loop by increasing purchase of recycled content.

Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance

The Local Government Buy Recycled Alliance, developed by DEC in partnership with the NSW Local Government and Shires Association, encourages local government to purchase goods containing recycled content and improve access to recycled content suppliers. By 30 June 2005, 12 councils had signed up as members and others were involved through regional organisations of councils or waste groups.

During the year DEC put together a resource kit that is now available to any NSW council on request and the Buy Recycled Website contains a comprehensive list of potential

The alliance is in its early stages, but is expected to deliver real improvement in green purchasing by councils in coming

National Buying Green Conference and Expo

In November 2004, DEC hosted the National Buying Green Conference and Expo with the theme 'Buying green means business'. The conference brought together makers of 'green' products and leaders in 'green' purchasing, including 239 delegates from local government, state government, federal government, academic institutes, the community, commerce and industry.

■ CASE STUDY

Recycled materials in road construction

Government agencies are working hard to use their buying power to increase markets for recycled materials. Partnerships between DEC and major infrastructure providers such as the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) are providing market opportunities for used tyres, glass and recycled organics.

In 2004-05 RTA trialled the use of scrap rubber tyres in asphalt, which can increase the durability and lifespan of pavement and reduce maintenance costs. The project aims to divert one million tyres from NSW landfill every year. DEC and the RTA are also exploring the use of crushed glass recovered from waste to use in concrete production to replace diminishing resources of sand and aggregate.

DEC and the RTA have conducted successful trials of recycled organic material in roadside landscaping. Changes to RTA specifications in the future will produce a market for recycled organics in road-making of an estimated at 47,000 m³ in 2005-06 for new roads alone.



Part of the trial to use recycled organics in RTA's roadside landscaping.

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Sustainability in business

Building business partnerships and alliances

DEC is building on the success of its Cleaner Production Industry Partnership Program and other industry collaboration to work with businesses to avoid the creation of waste and pollutants, including avoiding the use of toxic raw materials and reducing the use of resources, materials, energy and water, and the volume and toxicity of waste and emissions.

Since 2001, when the program began, partner organisations have collectively achieved financial savings of almost \$9 million and annual environmental savings of:

- 32,400 kilowatt hours of electricity and 8000 gigajoules of gas
- 34,000 tonnes of CO₂
- 8900 tonnes of raw materials
- 200 megalitres of water
- 8100-tonne reduction in waste to landfill.

We also continued to form three-to-five year alliances with peak industry bodies and individual organisations from high priority sectors. These alliances enable the development of strong working relationships and joint strategies that will deliver environmental improvement. They include an alliance started during the year with six of the top ten commercial property management companies who own or manage commercial office property in Sydney, including AMP Capital Investors, Colonial First State Property, General Property Trust, ING Real Estate, Macquarie Asset Services and Stockland. Use of innovative tools assisted the companies to identify and prioritise actions to enhance sustainability. We have identified projects in areas such as sustainability policy and planning, resource efficiency (energy, water and waste), supply chain management and environmental reporting.

Importantly, the expertise and contacts gained through the Industry Partnerships Program will be channelled into further partnerships with business, focusing on a range of sustainability issues. During the year DEC also began negotiations for a new sustainability program with a number of leading Australian businesses to deliver significant environmental outcomes and leadership in their industry sector, which will be announced in 2005–06.

Increasing recycling in businesses

An assessment report was conducted during the year based on a substantial survey where DEC had previously contacted 7700 businesses in south-east NSW to establish whether they wanted or needed recycling services in an effort to connect them with recycling service providers. This information has proved to be crucial to the development of new collections and increasing the rate of waste recovery in the region.

The assessment report found that:

- one in five shopfront businesses surveyed stated they had been approached by a recycling service in the previous year
- eight out of ten small-to-medium shopfront businesses in the region are recycling at least one of their waste products.

Product stewardship/extended producer responsibility

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) requires producers to take physical or financial responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their life cycle. This includes both the 'upstream' impacts from their choice of materials and the manufacturing processes they use, and the 'downstream' impacts associated with the use and disposal of products. EPR is generally applied to post-consumer and other difficult to manage wastes.

DEC released its first annual extended producer responsibility priority statement in early 2004. DEC identified 16 priority wastes of concern, including:

- nine top priorities computers, televisions, nickel cadmium batteries (excluding mobile phone batteries), used tyres, plastic bags, agricultural/veterinary chemicals and containers, mobile phones and batteries and packaging wastes, and
- a further seven wastes of concern cigarette litter, office paper, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), other electrical products (excluding computers, televisions and mobile phones), treated timber, end-of-life vehicle residuals, and household hazardous and chemical wastes.

EPR is critical to making real progress on the NSW Waste Strategy. An expert reference group was appointed to assess each waste of concern and provide advice regarding the next stages of EPR. The expert reference group has been meeting with the priority industry sectors during the year and expects to submit its report to the Director General and Minister in late 2005.

DEC has also been working at the national level to ensure that, where possible, there is a coordinated jurisdictional and industry effort. National processes, through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, are currently dealing with electricals (televisions and computers), tyres, plastic bags, agriculture and veterinary chemicals and containers, mobile phones, and packaging. NSW is taking the lead jurisdictional role with electrical products.

National Packaging Covenant

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council agreed to a revised National Packaging Covenant on 1 July 2005. During 2004–05, DEC played a key role in ensuring that the new covenant provides a much stronger framework with clear environmental goals and targets and greater measurability, governance and compliance procedures. The revised covenant commits signatories to a national recycling target of 65 per cent for packaging and no further increases in packaging waste disposed to landfill by the end of 2010.

The covenant builds on a commitment from all major packaging groups (manufacturers, retailers and fillers) to deliver specific recycling targets by 2010 and to deliver other improvements across the whole lifecycle of packaging, from material selection to better design and increased recyclability.

In 2004–05, the Covenant Jurisdictional Recycling Group, coordinated by DEC, also completed two significant projects to increase recyclability. A glass compaction study will help predict glass breakage in mixed recycling collections, which can compromise recovery of materials. A second study explored the opportunities for broken glass to be reutilised in various products where it would replace virgin materials, such as sand.



Improving resource conservation

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Waste avoidance and resource recovery

Implement the NSW Waste Avoidance and Recovery Strategy focusing on avoiding and preventing waste, increasing use of renewable and recoverable materials, and reducing roadside and railway litter and illegal dumping

The NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2003 provides the framework and targets for our waste-related actions (page 65). The strategy drives many of DEC's activities, including improving recycling and increasing markets for recycled products. During 2004–05 DEC formed the Litter and Illegal Dumping Alliance and focused on education to minimise waste (page 65).

Improving resource conservation through land-use planning

Contribute early in the planning process to improve conservation and efficiency in resource use in urban and rural areas e.g. for water

DEC assists the development and adoption of 'Waste Not' development control plans (DCP) by local councils. At 30 June 2005, 45 councils across Sydney had adopted 'Waste Not' DCPs that require development applications to demonstrate how construction and demolition wastes generated from a development will be recycled or reused. This is particularly important for multi-unit dwellings. This year, DEC supported 15 councils to implement the DCP.

For DEC's contribution to the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy and the Metropolitan Water Plan, see pages 21 and 60.

Developing a sustainability framework

Develop a sustainability framework for a more integrated approach to managing environmental issues

During 2004–05, DEC undertook substantial preparatory work to create a framework for sustainability. At 30 June, work was underway across DEC to map its contribution to long-term environmental sustainability and to assess how it can adopt more sustainable practices in its own operations.

Supporting the waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy

The NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2003 provides the framework and targets for our wasterelated actions. It involves government, industry and the community in working towards four key outcomes:

- preventing and avoiding waste
- increasing use of renewable and recovered materials
- reducing toxicity in products and materials
- reducing litter and illegal dumping.

The 2004 report showed that good progress is being made to increase recycling by households and by the construction sector. However, a real opportunity remains to improve the performance of the commercial and industrial sector. An audit of waste from that sector carried out by DEC in 2004 showed that substantial quantities of recyclable materials were sent to landfill, including cardboard and timber. DEC also carried out an audit of the contents of green plastic bags from landfill in August 2004 (see page 66).

In November 2004, DEC formed the Litter and Illegal Dumping Alliance as part of the strategy. The alliance brings together government agencies, non-government organisations and industry groups to contribute to a full understanding of litter, illegal dumping and illegal landfilling issues and behaviour. It will coordinate and prioritise actions to tackle specific litter types and dumped materials and sources. For more on DEC litter programs, see page 24.

Collecting waste data

DEC needs to know more about waste generation and where waste goes in order to inform industry and to design effective programs. During 2004-05, DEC built on its data collection in a number of ways.

In 2005 we carried out an audit of construction and demolition waste being disposed to landfill in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Audits are an important part of characterising the 'waste stream', particularly waste being lost to landfill. The audit used a new methodology designed to provide significantly more accurate results. At 30 June, the data was being analysed to be fed back to industry.

We published a report on the NSW reprocessing industry, bringing together data from 2001–03. By comparing data across the years, we gained a better picture of trends in materials being processed and the recycling capacity in NSW.

In November 2004, DEC released the New South Wales litter report 2004, the first in a series of biennial reports on littering in NSW. The survey introduced a methodology that will be used in subsequent surveys to build a picture of longterm trends in litter composition and littering behaviours. This information will provide an indicator of the effectiveness of government, industry and community initiatives to reduce litter.

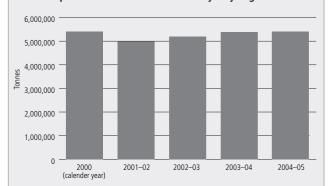
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Change in waste disposed to landfill in the **Greater Sydney Region under the Waste** Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy

Definition: This indicator measures the tonnages of waste disposed to landfill from the Greater Sydney Region (from Port Stephens to the Shoalhaven and including the Sydney Metropolitan Area). The NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy, which began in 2003 and is managed by DEC, provides a major driver for reducing waste and improving disposal practices. Achievements under the strategy rely on industry, council and community working to reduce targeted waste areas.

Data is available for the 2000 calendar year and the following financial years up to and including 2004–05. Data reported for 2003–04 and 2004–05 was calculated using the new waste data system DEC established in 2004. This system allows facilities to enter their data on-line. The entire series is being reviewed in light of the new system.

Waste disposed to landfill in the Greater Sydney Region



Interpretation: In 2004–05, there was a slight rise of 0.5% in waste disposal in the Greater Sydney Region from the previous year. The Sydney Metropolitan Area and outer Sydney areas have both experienced similar increases on the previous year of 0.2% and 1.8% respectively. Since 2000, the Sydney Metropolitan Area has achieved a 3.7% reduction in waste disposed to landfill, but this has been offset by an increase in waste in the outer Sydney areas regulated by DEC.

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy has set longterm targets for waste and already there are signs of improved waste practices and results (left).

The survey assessed both weight and volume of litter collected, as well as looking at littering behaviour in a crosssection of sites across NSW. It found that:

- the 'clean' rating system used in the survey gave NSW a similar rating to that measured in Victoria, which is at the upper end of the moderately clean rating
- beaches, parks and waterfronts performed better than roadsides, public transport sites and landmark sites
- by both weight and volume, the largest category of litter collected was cigarette butts (38.8% by weight)
- by weight the next highest categories were glass (21.5%), paper (11.6%), organics (10.1%), and plastic (9.6%)
- by volume the next highest categories were paper (27.6%), plastic (25.3%), non ferrous metals (4.7%), organics (4.0%), and glass (3.5%).

In August 2004, DEC brought a new Waste Data System online that allows waste facilities in the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra regions to report their waste data and waste levy requirements. The waste levy, at \$21.20 per tonne of waste disposed in Sydney and \$13.20 in the Hunter and Illawarra, is the NSW Government's principal economic incentive for reducing waste and promoting resource recovery.

Local government forums

In May 2005, DEC staff and 126 officers from 54 councils engaged in a series of forums in Sydney, Nowra and the Hunter to discuss a range of topics including sustainability education, waste contracts, and recycling systems. DEC presented some of the latest resources available to councils, including illegal dumping research and model waste contracts. The forums were also an opportunity for councils to discuss the challenges ahead and what they needed to meet those challenges. DEC received feedback that helped to identify gaps and critical areas for councils.

Model waste contract for councils

Tendering for waste services is a complex process that will typically take councils over a year to prepare. In May 2005 DEC finalised a model contract for waste services for use by councils, after close collaboration with councils. The comprehensive document distils the experience of individual councils and incorporates good practice performance measures developed through research on kerb-side recycling collections and other studies. Twenty-two councils have already registered to receive the model contract.

A service development timeline also complements the contract and provides checklists, time frames and tips for successfully completing the tender, selection and start of a new waste service contract.

■ CASE STUDY

City to Soil

A new system was trialled in Queanbeyan to take household organic waste and turn it into high-quality compost delivered to the farm gate. The economics of the City to Soil system were assessed after the trial. The results showed multiple benefits to householders, council and farmers.

Queanbeyan City Council made low-tech changes to its residential waste collection to incorporate a separate collection of household food and garden waste. Barcodes and readers were used to record returns from each household. The material was then composted to Australian Standard and delivered to a trial farm site. Applied to the farm site, the locally made compost increased crop yield by 230% in the first year and a further 82% in the second year.

City to Soil demonstrated food and garden waste can be separately collected with relatively low levels of contamination from other waste, composted and sold within a 200-kilometre radius to farmers for about \$50 per tonne. This was around \$25 less per tonne than landfilling the waste in Queanbeyan. The benefits to depleted soil are immediate. Lastly, the cost savings of dealing with the waste can be passed back to



These grapes were grown using compost from household organic waste collected by Queanbeyan Council.

participating households through the individual barcoding system.

The City to Soil project was a finalist in the 2004 Banksia Awards. The project has created interest both in Australia and overseas. A number of other organisations are interested in adopting the principle of processing urban resources for the benefit of agricultural soil quality.

P Honan

Strengthening kerb-side recycling collections

In 2005, DEC published a resource kit to assist councils in making decisions about collecting garden organic waste and directing that waste to new 'alternative waste technologies'. The costs of councils providing a separate garden waste collection are surprisingly small and can actually reduce overall waste management costs.

The benefits of kerb-side recycling have also been summarised for councils in easy-to-understand material that can be used in community education and to support council decision-making. A 'calculator' helps councils demonstrate the energy, greenhouse and water savings that kerb-side recycling can deliver.

Supporting voluntary regional waste groups

The seven voluntary regional waste groups cover 85 councils and over 90 per cent of NSW. This year, over \$1 million of funding from the Waste Fund was used to support rural and regional waste groups to assist the development and delivery of waste avoidance and resource recovery plans addressing the four key outcomes of the Waste Strategy. For example, during the year councils formed regional arrangements to provide kerb-side recycling in Parkes, which had previously had no service, and increases in the area covered in Blaney, Cabonne and Forbes. Some groups also ran programs to collect metal from farms for recycling in the northern inland regional area. DEC provides further support to regional waste groups through hosting forums, promoting networks and providing access to DEC expertise.

Regional waste issues include rationalising landfill operations, negotiating regional contracts for resource recovery encompassing agricultural material, and overcoming transport logistics. The voluntary regional waste groups recently calculated that since their formation in 2002, they had enabled the diversion from landfill of:

- 28,300 tonnes of scrap metal
- 187,000 cubic metres of green waste
- 237,000 agricultural chemical drums

- 760,000 plastic bags
- 115,900 tonnes of household chemical waste
- 44,700 tonnes of construction and demolition materials.

Markets for recycled resources

Increasing markets for recycled organics products

Following an analysis of markets for recycled organic products in 2003–04, this year DEC has been working with agencies with the potential to take up significant tonnages of material. DEC has partnered with the Hawkesbury–Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA), Roads and Traffic Authority, Forests NSW and Department of Primary Industries to establish sites demonstrating the use and benefits of recycled organics in catchment protection, roadside landscaping, salinity and mine site rehabilitation.

For example, a scientific trial at a Department of Primary Industries facility and a large-scale site at Bungonia demonstrated that recycled organics can help reduce soil erosion by up to 85%, and can play an important role in protecting soils and improving water quality in catchment areas.

DEC worked in partnership with the HNCMA on a largescale trial to demonstrate how successful recycled organics can be in catchment protection works. As a result of the trial, HNCMA guidelines for catchment works will be changed to require the use of recycled organics.

Attitudes to buying recycled

During the year DEC conducted social research into attitudes and behaviour towards buying recycled content products to better understand how we can influence recycled content buying decisions. The research took in the public sector, local government and small-to-medium size businesses and was a first for NSW.

■ CASE STUDY

Reducing illegal dumping campaign

During 2004-05, DEC developed and trialled a campaign to reduce illegal dumping around multi-unit dwellings. Our 'Dumping. It's Dumb' campaign and resource materials for councils was based on extensive research and was trialled by Kogarah Council. The campaign led to an overall reduction in the average number of illegal dumps of 23% compared with the same period one year earlier.



A poster for the illegal dumping campaign trialled by Kogarah Council.

Community education and support

Attitudes about the environment

DEC conducts vital research into what the community thinks about the environment and uses the results to inform the education initiatives that we design and carry out.

This year, research into attitudes in the eight largest ethnic communities in NSW showed that significantly more people from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB) rated environment as 'very' important than in DEC's 2003 community-wide survey, 'Who Cares about the Environment?'. Overall, people can also discuss environmental issues in more detail than in 1996. The number of people who are 'unsure' or 'don't know' about environmental issues has decreased markedly. When combined with issues of water conservation and urban growth/population issues, the environment is seen as a significantly more important issue in NSW today than it was in 1996. The full report will be published in 2005–06 and will be available on DEC's website.

We also conducted telephone interviews and a survey into illegal dumping. Key findings include:

- for 95% of urban councils, illegal dumping is either a moderate or major problem, compared to 41% of rural councils. Illegal landfilling is less likely to be a problem
- urban councils spend an average of \$1.68 per person per year on illegal dumping issues, while rural councils spend an average \$0.69 per person per year, 90% of this spending being on clean-up and enforcement
- 44% of waste dumped is household waste. In rural areas this is mostly rubbish, and in urban areas is mostly furniture and whitegoods.

Changing community behaviour

In 2004–05, DEC provided \$1.4 million to councils across NSW to deliver sustainability education programs within organisations and with householders, focused on delivering environmentally responsible behaviour changes that tackle local issues. Councils work in partnership with DEC individually or as groups to design and deliver education resources in their local areas. Independent research tracking the response to the campaigns found that they reduced

consumption of resources such as energy and water, protected the environment from pollution, minimised impacts through waste avoidance and recycling, and improved biodiversity through conservation and restoration of areas for native plants and animals. The program was funded as part of the NSW Environmental Trust's funding for the 'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' program.

DEC also supported council networks in providing training, education materials and funding for householder sustainability education, targeted at behaviour change in the home

Educating the community

The 'Our Environment – It's a Living Thing' community education campaign entered its fourth year in 2005. The campaign is making a real difference to environmental awareness and promoting positive behaviour in the community. Research in the past four years has shown increases in the community's water- and energy-saving behaviours and increased recycling and reuse of resources.

DEC is part of the first major government/non-government partnership in NSW to undertake an integrated and coordinated education program to promote sustainable living. This year, DEC entered a new phase in the program that will cover the wide range of issues involved in sustainability including waste, 'buying green', household chemicals and sustainable consumption. The aim of the initiative is to bring the resources of government and the non-government sector together to deliver a consistent high-quality education program, using the expertise of each group as effectively as possible.

Sustainable schools

Since 2003, DEC and the NSW Department of Education and Training have worked together to introduce school environmental management plans (SEMPs). We worked with 188 pilot schools to develop plans that identified how the schools were managing resources – waste, purchasing, energy, water, the school grounds – and how they were linking environmental issues into curriculum.

At the end of the pilot program in 2004, the program had implemented an environmentally friendly purchasing training program for all purchasing officers in government schools (around 6000). SEMPs were in place for 70 per cent of the pilot schools and 71 per cent reported that the progress they had made towards sustainability would endure for a year or more.



A credible, efficient and effective organisation

The DEC *Corporate Plan 2004–06* identified the following **strategic focus areas** and **outcomes** required to achieve our corporate goal of 'A credible, efficient and effective organisation'.

Strategic focus area	Outcomes
One integrated DEC	The Department completes the transformation of constituent agencies into DEC
	DEC values and develops staff and provides a safe and healthy workplace
	The Department is recognised for the quality of its communication, service delivery and corporate governance

In this chapter

One integrated DEC

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One integrated DEC

Corporate plan priorities for 2004–06

Building staff knowledge and capacity

Building staff knowledge and accountabilities and the capacity to deliver services across the Department, emphasising conservation, environmental and cultural heritage concepts, values and practices

During 2004–05 DEC worked on establishing an organisation-wide approach to learning and development, incorporating the opportunities and needs of all work areas (page 72).

DEC is also working to establish an effective staff performance management system that recognises achievements and supports the delivery of DEC services and programs.

Cultural heritage change program

Review and implement the Cultural Heritage Change Program and the government's 'Two Ways Together' plan

DEC reviewed its Cultural Heritage Strategic Policy in 2004–05. A staff Aboriginal Affairs Reference Group was established to assist and advise on implementing 'Two Ways Together' across DEC, including addressing Aboriginal cultural heritage training needs.

Effective cross-divisional links

Establish effective cross-divisional links within DEC

DEC established a staff steering group in November 2004 to work on DEC and cross-divisional issues (page 71).

The annual gathering of Aboriginal staff held in Woody Head this year began work on a strategic plan and charter for the Aboriginal Network, which supports Aboriginal staff across DEC. Drafts were prepared during 2004–05, to be finalised in 2005–06.

During the year DEC conducted a series of workshops at regional centres, where the DEC executive and staff discussed regional environmental, operational, cultural and reform issues as well as corporate and divisional priorities and goals.

New industrial awards

Develop and implement new industrial awards for the Department

During the year DEC worked with unions to develop a draft integrated DEC award as the basis for on-going negotiation. Interim award arrangements from conciliation in the Industrial Relations Commission in February 2004 will continue to apply until the integrated award is finalised.

Integrating corporate support services

Establish and implement effective integrated corporate support services across the Department, including policies, procedures, systems and infrastructure

In 2004–05 DEC established a number of corporate support policies and strategies relating to records management, human resources, financial management, procurement, motor vehicles, office accommodation, and information management and communication technology. DEC also established a shared service centre that provides payroll, recruitment, and creditor and debtor transaction processing services, and implemented DEC-wide human resources and financial management information systems.

Occupational health and safety

Set and achieve challenging targets for occupational health and safety

DEC implemented an OHS management system to ensure we meet or exceed standards. This year DEC trained its executive in the new OHS requirements; undertook the self assessment requirement for the new Department; reviewed detailed audits for the former NPWS and BGT; and prepared a DEC OHS policy and consultative committee structure.

Achieving budget savings targets

Review work priorities to achieve the Department's two-year budget savings targets while also ensuring manageable workloads for

DEC met its overall 2004–05 budget and delivered on the budget savings and revenue strategies required by the NSW Government's 2004-05 mini-budget. DEC's first corporate plan, which establishes goals and priorities for 2004–06, was released in September 2004.

Organisational development

DEC has appointed a coordinator for reform projects designed to develop our organisation. In November 2004 DEC established a cross-divisional staff steering group to support these projects and to provide feedback to executive members. Issues addressed by the group include corporate branding, corporate culture and integration.

Cross-divisional links for conservation

A holistic approach to the conservation of threatened species has been adopted with the establishment of formalised working relationships between Parks and Wildlife Division (PWD) and the Environment Protection and Regulation Division (EPRD). For example in the Northern Rivers Region, the Shorebird Threatened Species Recovery Plan has been integrated with the Fox Threat Abatement Plan. Species such as the pied oystercatcher and little tern are now managed by a combined PWD and EPRD working group.

DEC structure and staff placement

The creation of DEC in September 2003 presented significant workforce planning challenges in order to integrate and consolidate structures and practices across four formerly separate agencies. Roles and functions across DEC had to be defined and delineated in the context of the new Department. Duplicated areas (in particular, human resources, finance, information technology, administration and facilities, legal services, information and publishing, executive services, public affairs, corporate governance, and ministerial and parliamentary services) were subjected to significant restructuring. This occurred simultaneously with significant budget savings requirements.

At 30 June 2005, the restructuring process was nearing completion and the majority of positions and staff placements were aligned to the new structure and divisional roles. During 2004-05, DEC evaluated and developed, reviewed and assessed position descriptions for 226 positions.

DEC also reviewed the application of industrial instruments to ensure appropriate classification of positions under interim award arrangements. The unions have worked closely with DEC, meeting regularly in the Joint Consultative Restructure Sub-committee to develop and oversee the progress of the

In October 2004 DEC established an **Employee Relations intranet page**, including fact sheets and frequently asked questions, to provide consistent interpretation and application of DEC awards, policies and conditions of employment for all recruitment and other human resources processes.

Learning and development

In 2004–05 12 managers completed the highly successful **Management Development Program**, which is designed to provide managers with the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership and people management skills. Through a combination of structured learning and mentoring activities, managers had an opportunity to discuss management issues with colleagues and were introduced to new ideas and management techniques. DEC engaged high-quality external facilitators with particular areas of expertise to provide this training, substantially reducing the 'per head' cost.

Following a highly competitive selection process three staff from DEC were allocated places in the **Public Sector Executive Development Program** offered by the NSW Premier's Department, in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and the University of Sydney. These programs provide an opportunity for senior managers to broaden their skills and develop attributes to lead effectively in the public sector.

DEC continued to support **fire training programs** during 2004–05, in order to maintain skills to nationally endorsed standards. DEC continues to ensure that employees have the necessary support from supervisors and managers when undertaking this training. During the year, 557 employees were awarded Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefighting Operations). At 30 June, a further 287 employees were undertaking the requirements to attain this gualification.

DEC is the first environmental or conservation regulator in Australia to be accredited as an **Environmental Auditor Training Provider** by the Registrar Accreditation Board/Quality Society of Australasia International (RABQSA). During 2004–05, 21 DEC officers obtained certification as provisional environmental auditors through our competency-based environmental auditor training.

In 2004–05 DEC's Legal Services Branch also provided **evidence and offence provisions training** to Environment Protection and Regulation staff and a one-day **basic investigation training** course to Parks and Wildlife staff.

Corporate governance

DEC has continued the development and review of our corporate governance arrangements to ensure our compliance with statutory requirements and the systematic management of risk and performance in our operations.

Performance management

DEC's Corporate Plan 2004–06 now in place is being used to guide wider planning and decision-making across DEC, including strategic, operational and functional plans for each division. The corporate plan is available at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

During the year, DEC's corporate performance measures were reviewed to strengthen their link to the corporate plan and improve the relevance, quality and timeliness of data. Performance reports, which are provided regularly to DEC management and key external stakeholders, now use a common set of indicators to guide performance monitoring of DEC and improve our accountability to stakeholders.

During 2004–05, DEC led by the Parks and Wildlife Division commenced development of a **Future Directions Statement** for the Protected Area System. The statement informs corporate and divisional planning to improve DEC's capacity to respond to changing ecological, social and economic circumstances in relation to protected areas and wildlife management, including:

- the impacts of climate change
- increased urbanisation
- changing park use patterns
- native vegetation loss and fragmentation
- increased pressures on waterways and wetlands.

To develop Future Directions, DEC has considered recent national and international trends in protected area management, especially those identified at the World Parks Congress in 2003. It has also taken into account recent institutional and policy changes within NSW.

Corporate reporting

DEC submitted all financial statements to the Audit Office by the statutory deadline in August 2004. All content of the annual report, except the final Environment Protection Authority (EPA) financial statements, was prepared by the statutory deadline of 31 October 2004.

Tabling of DEC's Annual Report for 2003–04 was delayed pending receipt of an audit opinion of its financial statements. This opinion was qualified in relation to the EPA financial statements. However, the audit opinion related to how DEC's financial statements were presented, not to how DEC managed its finances, and nor was it a reflection of financial exposure.

Risk management and compliance

During 2004–05, DEC undertook a corporate risk assessment. The outcomes of this work will form the basis of an integrated risk management strategy including a new three-year audit program, a program for improved management controls, and a fraud and corruption prevention strategy.

DEC's comprehensive internal audit program helps to ensure the compliance, efficiency and effectiveness of DEC programs and processes. DEC appoints independent auditors to conduct internal audits. This audit activity is overseen by either DEC's Internal Audit Committee or by the statutory Conservation Audit and Compliance Committee established under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

We completed 17 audits during the year. Major issues addressed included:

- revenue systems and cash handling (regional offices) recommended improved controls and staff security
- computer room (physical security and protection from environmental factors) – recommended improved safety and protection arrangements
- Kangaroo Management Program confirmed compliance with legislative requirements but included a number of minor recommendations to improve management systems
- Cleaner Production (Industry Partnership) Grant Scheme affirmed all management, probity and accountability compliance requirements
- contaminated sites affirmed site remediation administrative standards, but recommended measures to minimise potential conflicts of interest regarding appointment of independent site auditors
- protection of historical heritage values affirmed internal funding allocation procedures for maintenance of historic sites within national parks
- Waste Levy Audit Program resulted in a strong endorsement of the current audit program
- Environment Protection Licensing (Public Register) confirmed accuracy and currency of information of the public register.

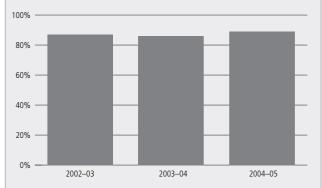
External reviews provide DEC with an independent assessment of our probity and impact. During 2004-05 the Audit Office of NSW carried out comprehensive audits of our annual financial statements and associated financial systems. The Audit Office also completed a major performance audit, Managing air quality, which concluded that there has been significant progress in controlling air pollutants since the introduction of the government's 'Action for air' strategy in 1998. NSW met four key national reduction goals ahead of target but two goals, regarding ozone and particles, are proving more difficult to achieve. A solution requires interagency effort to reduce private car usage and improve the transport planning and coordination effort.

■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Percentage of freedom of information requests granted by DEC that provide 80% or more of requested information

Definition: This measures the percentage of freedom of information (FOI) applications DEC processed where 80% or more of the requested documents were released.

Percentage of FOI requests granted by DEC that provided 80% or more of the requested information



Interpretation: DEC exempts very few of its documents requested under FOI from release. However, it is reasonable and proper that a minor percentage of documents received from third parties are exempted. Third parties provide information to DEC in confidence or in response to regulatory requirements. The release of information concerning third parties' personal or business affairs may have an adverse effect on those parties. The Freedom of Information Act 1989 provides protection in these circumstances.

A slight increase on the result for the past two years suggests a high degree of consistency in the consideration of exemptions from release provided by the FOI Act.

DEC takes seriously complaints and other performance feedback in order to improve our service delivery and prevent problems recurring. In 2004–05 DEC received 25 significant complaints. These matters were all subject to investigation and 19 were finalised during the year. Two matters received but not resolved in 2003–04 were also finalised. No evidence of improper conduct was found in relation to any of these complaints, although some changes to systems or procedures were recommended in three matters

Freedom of information

DEC is committed to transparent and accountable decisionmaking. Members of the public are able to access many documents held by DEC through its website, by request or by purchase. Other documents can be obtained by applying under the Freedom of Information Act 1989.

Freedom of information (FOI) statistics for 2004–05 are shown in Appendix 11, page 166. DEC received 99 new FOI requests this year, a 25 per cent decrease compared to 2003–04. 104 applications were processed during the year.

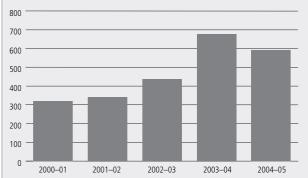
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Number and value of reported DEC staff accidents and workers compensation claims

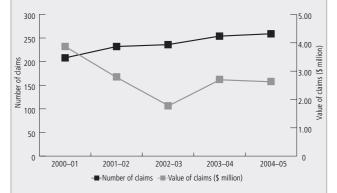
Definition: This indicator measures DEC work-related incidents and/or accidents and any resulting claim for compensation.

The number of reported accidents/incidents measures staff-reported events that could have led to, or did cause, an injury. The number and dollar value indicators measure the number and cost of injuries for which a claim was made. Claims are usually lodged and recorded immediately after an incident, although claims may be lodged and costs incurred for several years after. These costs and claims are reported as occurring in the year in which the incident occurred, so historical trend data may vary from year to year.

Accidents/incidents reported



Workers' compensation claims and their value



Interpretation: The total number of incidents reported has grown over most of the five-year period reflecting a growing staff awareness of incident reporting protocols. However, overall claim costs remain relatively flat. This is a good result against a trend of escalating medical costs and the disruption of restructuring. Contemporary preventative and case management initiatives continue to be implemented across DEC to prevent incidents and contain claims costs.

A large number of applications were from members of parliament, journalists, solicitors, companies, and community and political organisations. DEC rarely receives FOI applications from people seeking information held about their personal affairs.

While 23 per cent of the FOI applications received were subject to exemptions from release, in most cases those exemptions covered a minor number of documents. For 89 per cent of applications determined, over 80 per cent of the documents requested were released (see performance indicator, page 73).

Many DEC applications are complex and usually capture documents provided by third parties, such as individuals, organisations and businesses. The overwhelming majority of FOI exemptions were made to protect those third parties' personal and business affairs. Very few documents created by DEC were exempted.

There were nine internal review decisions made during 2004–05. In two cases, the original FOI decision was varied. The other seven decisions were affirmed. Two review requests were received from third parties attempting to prevent the release of documents by DEC.

Eight FOI decisions proceeded to the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT). The ADT affirmed DEC's decisions in all cases.

Two complaints were made to the Ombudsman's Office about DEC's FOI decisions. One related to a DEC decision to exempt documents for which legal professional privilege was claimed. This privilege was maintained despite a recommendation by the Deputy Ombudsman that DEC release the documents. DEC redetermined the second matter and released documents in line with the Ombudsman's recommendation.

Due to the large scope and complexity of many FOI applications, 16 were not completed within the statutory timeframe, although ten of these were less than eight days overdue. Some applications involved hundreds of documents, required accessing documents from a number of regional locations, and involved extensive consultation with many affected third parties.

DEC's FOI statement of affairs, which describes our structure and functions, how the public can participate in policy development, and documents held by DEC and how they can be accessed or amended, is located on the website.

Privacy

DEC works to ensure the protection of privacy rights for both staff and clients, and in May 2005 began developing a comprehensive new privacy management plan for DEC.

During 2004–05, DEC received two applications for access to personal information, and all of the information requested was released. DEC also received a complaint under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and *the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*, regarding conduct that disclosed some personal and health information to a third party. The internal review officer found that the disclosures were made pursuant to requirements under the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998* and so, with one minor exception relating to inadvertent unauthorised disclosure, did not breach any privacy principles. DEC reminded all staff of the importance of protecting personal information from accidental unauthorised disclosure.

This year the ADT affirmed decisions DEC made in 2003–04 to exempt information from disclosure to an applicant on the grounds that the information was either subject to legal professional privilege or that the personal information in question related to persons other than the applicant.

Ethical conduct

During the year DEC produced its first Code of Ethical Conduct (Appendix 12, page 168). The code is also published on DEC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/about/ethics.htm.

The Code of Ethical Conduct describes the ethical framework that should guide the actions, decisions and behaviour of all DEC employees. It applies to everyone engaged by DEC, whether by permanent appointment, temporary appointment, on work experience, volunteer work or as contractors. The code stresses DEC's strong commitment to maintaining a workforce that displays the highest standards of conduct and ethics through its diverse range of workplaces.

Animal Ethics Committee

DEC's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) approves and monitors all research and teaching using vertebrate animals conducted by DEC employees and contractors, ensuring that DEC meets its obligations under the Animal Research Act 1985. The AEC (Appendix 5, page 141) assesses applications for conduct of animal research and must be convinced that the scientific or educational benefits of use outweigh the potential impact on the animal. To achieve this, the AEC ensure that the use of animals for scientific purposes and teaching complies with the Australian code of practice.

A total of 14 new projects were approved by the AEC during the year and 77 were renewed. In addition, the committee reviewed spotlighting procedures as well as procedures for dealing with injured animals and feral animals trapped as a by-catch of research.

Environmental performance

Efficient accommodation

A large proportion of DEC's operational staff are based in regional areas of NSW.

In formulating DEC's approach to office accommodation planning, our strategy includes:

- pursuing co-location opportunities wherever possible
- an annual review of the suitability of existing sites
- supporting the Department of Commerce in its planning of new government office buildings (GOBs).

We have already achieved real benefits through our occupation of office space at GOBs in Armidale. Coffs Harbour, Dubbo, Grafton, Newcastle, Tamworth and Wollongong. As a Department, we have undertaken co-locations/consolidation at the Kariong, Buronga, Newcastle, Grafton, Dubbo and Queanbeyan offices.

Our energy policy continues to include initiatives to reduce energy usage wherever possible, and DEC is at the forefront of energy efficiency in our major tenancies. During 2004–05, we achieved five-star Australian Greenhouse Building Ratings for our Goulburn Street, Sydney and Bridge Street, Hurstville tenancies where we have installed highly efficient fluorescent lighting systems and after-hours automatic light switching. DEC also achieved ratings of 4 and 4.5 stars at our Coffs Harbour and Queanbeyan offices and continues to strive for additional energy efficiencies and water savings strategies in all tenancies.

Green fleet

Given the large area of the state it manages, DEC has one of the largest motor vehicle fleets in the NSW Government. We lease 922 passenger and four-wheel-drive vehicles through StateFleet, as well as 184 trucks, vans and motorcycles used in the field for operational purposes.

DEC has embraced the principles of the NSW Cleaner Vehicles Action Plan. Our Fleet Environmental Improvement Plan includes reducing the environmental impact of DEC motor vehicles by choosing vehicles with a higher environmental rating wherever possible, and by only using 4WD vehicles for dedicated operational purposes.

At 30 June 2005, DEC's fleet included 14 hybrid vehicles, which represents 4 per cent of our total passenger fleet of 346 vehicles and exceeds the NSW Government target of 1 per cent for passenger fleets over 100 vehicles.

Sustainable procurement

DEC's Procurement Plan for 2004–07 incorporates aggregated procurement strategies, such as the use of preferred supplier agreements (PSA) as well as improved procurement capabilities and processes to achieve cheaper and more sustainable goods and services. During 2004–05 DEC established PSAs for photocopiers and stationery supplies.

DEC has a 'Buy Green' policy and we undertake to include sustainability in all our purchasing decisions. This initiative is an integral part of our stationery supplier agreements where staff are encouraged to buy recycled and environmentally friendly products.

In addition to energy savings initiatives outlined above, DEC purchases green power, ranging from 100 per cent to 6 per cent of supply across our depots, workshops and office accommodation.

WRAPP

As part of its Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) Plan, DEC recycles paper, cardboard, glass, PET, and aluminium and steel cans. During 2004–05, we sought to reduce our use of non-environmentally friendly products and have implemented a ban on polystyrene packaging from suppliers, especially with regard to IT and other office equipment. All staff were encouraged to use recycled products when making purchases and wherever possible, consideration is given to reuse of building materials in construction contracts.

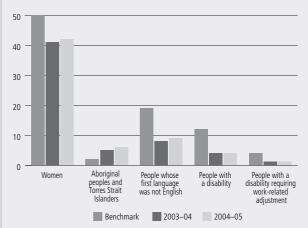
■ PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Percentage of DEC staff representation in equal employment opportunity groups

Definition: This indicator measures staff statistics according to five equal employment opportunity (EEO) groups: women; Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders; people whose first language spoken as a child was not English; people with a disability; and people with a disability requiring work-related adjustment. It also provides a comparison with NSW Government targets.

The data includes staff in DEC and associated entities, but excludes Minister's Office staff, contractors, and board and committee members. The data is based on a headcount of staff, not full-time equivalent figures.

Percentage of DEC staff representation in EEO groups



Interpretation: In 2004–05 DEC increased its representation of female employees, and consolidated the representation of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. The data will inform DEC's actions under its Equity and Diversity Framework, with a focus on maintaining and improving the levels of women and Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders, and improving other EEO group representation.

Like all NSW Government agencies, DEC is required to prepare biennial reports under WRAPP. During the year, DEC continued to work on developing a WRAPP database, which will allow us to better capture the information we need to report our progress.

Clean Harbour Partners Program

In 2004–05, DEC continued its membership of Sydney's Clean Harbour Partners Program, which undertakes voluntary but necessary actions and precautions to prevent pollution from their business or premises entering the stormwater system.

Social performance

Occupational health and safety

Occupational health and safety (OHS) management was a key focus for DEC in 2004–05, and we implemented a number of programs, including a review of workplace injury management, to ensure DEC meets or exceeds OHS management standards.

DEC completed an assessment based on the the NSW OHS and Injury Management Improvement Standard to identify gaps and facilitate the establishment of improvement plans. In May 2005, an independent WorkCover Authority audit confirmed our good practice in the use of tailored self-assessment tools for potentially high-risk work units to ensure risk management principles are applied systematically.

During the year DEC began implementing an over-arching OHS Policy, supported by new staff OHS consultative arrangements, to drive and support the refinement of DEC's OHS management.

In 2004–05, DEC also took the opportunity to begin sharing OHS risk management innovations and techniques across the whole Department, such as the systematic OHS management approach developed by Parks and Wildlife Division and the Botanic Gardens Trust's 'Take Five' technique to reinforce safety before each job.

Equal employment opportunity

As shown in the Distribution Index in Appendix 6, page 147, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander DEC employees are more frequently represented in lower income brackets (in comparison with the general workforce), as they are more likely to be employed in field positions. Staff in these positions have regular contact with Aboriginal communities, and having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in these positions is of great value to the community and DEC. DEC is endeavouring to increase the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in professional positions through formal employment program initiatives, such as the Aboriginal Cadet Ranger Program.

During the year DEC employed 16 **Aboriginal cadet rangers** across the Broken Hill, Bourke, Griffith, Buronga, Byron Bay, Murwillumbah, Tumut, Narooma, Ulladulla and Greater Metropolitan regions. Cadets participated in structured work placements under mentoring arrangements and were provided with financial assistance in gaining tertiary qualifications. Offers of permanent appointment were made to cadets who successfully competed the program. The cadet program was conducted according to broad guidelines developed by the NSW Office of Employment Equity and Diversity (OEED).

During the year DEC also employed 16 **Aboriginal trainee field officers**. We conducted field-based traineeships in conjunction with TAFE NSW, which involved enrolment in Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management combined with on- and off-the-job training for 12 months. The 2005 graduates were from Great Lakes, Alstonville, Murwillumbah, Hastings, Gloucester, Kyogle, Byron Bay, Bourke, Cobar, Wilcannia, Buronga, Narooma, Nowra and Sydney.

Aboriginal affairs

The staff Aboriginal Affairs Reference Group was formed in March 2005 to assist and advise DEC's Executive on Aboriginal affairs. The group consists of one representative from the executive/senior managers group and three representatives nominated by DEC's Aboriginal Staff Network. Its functions include:

- developing, monitoring and reviewing a DEC Aboriginal Affairs Plan to assist the coordination across all DEC divisions of DEC's responsibilities under the NSW Government's Aboriginal Affairs Policy 2003–2012: Two Ways Together
- being a source of ideas and exchange of information on Aboriginal Affairs issues
- ensuring information regarding DEC's Aboriginal Affairs responsibilities and activities is circulated within all DEC
- reviewing DEC policies relating to Aboriginal affairs.

DEC also honoured NAIDOC with a number of events and provided support to the Aboriginal Network.

Spokeswomen

The Spokeswomen's Program aims to provide assistance to women to achieve their potential within the NSW public sector through a program devised and implemented by the women themselves. The Spokeswomen's objective is to provide relevant information and support for women as well as advice to management on matters that affect women in the workplace. This year was the inaugural year for DEC's Spokeswomen's Program. Each division has at least one elected spokeswoman, who together have adopted the NSW Action Plan for Women.

Women in fire-fighting forum

DEC's Spokeswomen's Program sponsored several DEC staff to attend the inaugural NSW Women in Firefighting Forum in May 2005. This forum, held in response to a need identified by women, provided women fire-fighters in Australia with the opportunity to discuss and celebrate the important, exciting and sometimes dangerous work they do. Forum participants unanimously supported the establishment of an Australian Women's Firefighters Association.

International Women's Day

On Tuesday 8 March, DEC spokeswomen celebrated the economic, political, environmental and social achievements of women as part of International Women's Day. The Spokeswomen's Program sponsored a table at the NSW Women's Breakfast in Sydney, where DEC spokeswomen enjoyed the opportunity to meet and share experiences with Director General Lisa Corbyn and other female DEC

In South West Rocks, Northern NSW, female DEC staff celebrated the day with local Aboriginal women. Local business owner Diana Clark gave an inspirational talk to the women about achieving dreams, and two pandanus palms were planted on the foreshore of Trial Bay in honour of all women.

Parks and Wildlife Division female staff uniform

Thanks to lobbying from DEC Spokeswomen, in 2004–05 Parks and Wildlife uniforms for female field staff were revised to provide better fitting trousers, designed for women. The trousers have proved very popular and may also be trialled by female staff in the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Staff development days

In May 2005 the Spokeswomen's Program offered staff development seminars to female staff throughout NSW. The 'Lifestyle Management' seminar addressed managing change, work, and home life along with improving women's environment, health and wellbeing. 'Positive Career Management' addressed women making changes in their careers to support their on-going employability.

Ethnic affairs priority statement

DEC is developing a Department-wide Ethnic Affairs Priorities Statement which will build on the former agency statements. For more on the work DEC is doing with the state's diverse communities, see pages 50, 51, 56 and 68.

Economic performance

Financial management

In 2004–05 DEC's financial emphasis was on finalising projects commenced in the first year of the restructure and building on these initial gains by refining and enhancing the tools and capability necessary for the effective management of DEC's finances and assets.

Significant projects concluded during the year included:

- finalising the staff structure for Corporate Finance Branch
- developing the first integrated DEC budget for the 2004-05 financial year, together with the delivery of monthly budget reports to the executive on the performance of the agency and its divisions
- preparing the first set of consolidated statutory financial statements for the new agency for 2003-04
- executive approval of a number of key financial policies including the 2004–05 Financial and Budget Management Framework; the On-line Purchasing Policy; the Corporate Purchasing Card Policy; and the Car Pool FBT Policy
- implementation of the SAP financial system at the Botanical Gardens Trust in December 2004
- facilitation of the Parks and Wildlife Division financial management structure, including the development and evaluation of position descriptions and appointment of the Divisional Financial Controller and three of the four management accountants
- revaluation of assets, including camping grounds, picnic areas and lookouts
- consolidation of DEC purchasing cards into a single costing system.

On-going activities and new initiatives undertaken to maintain the systems and policies required for effective financial management, and to ensure the agency's statutory and central agency obligations are met, included:

- continuous update and improvement of DEC's Financial and Budget Management Framework
- considerable work to assess the impact of newly released international accounting standards on the agency
- further development of uniform financial policies and practices to address the requirements of the new Department
- submission of the first integrated DEC fringe benefit tax return
- acquisition of SAP Solution Manager to improve system support, facilitate project and change management and provide improved capability for training SAP users.

Financial statements for DEC and its associated legal entities were submitted to the Audit Office by the statutory deadline for the year ended 30 June 2004.

Insurance

DEC's insurance cover is obtained through the Treasury Managed Fund managed by GIO.

Areas of risk and relevant insurance premiums

	2003–04 \$'000	2004–05 \$'000
Workers compensation	3,539	2,409
Property	1,496	2,086
Motor vehicles	1,179	827
Public liability	3,956	3,849
Fire	24,751	28,306
Miscellaneous	56	50
TOTAL	34,976	37,527

Workers compensation claims

The number of workers compensation claims showed an increase of 14% on the previous year compared with a decrease of 4% for all government agencies.

The area of claims showing a notable increase is for psychological stress. These claims have a much higher average cost than other types causing the total cost of claims to rise sharply by 37%.

Number of claims

	2003–04	2004–05
DEC	201	229
All govt agencies	17,303	16,563

Source: Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) Report for quarter ending 30 June 2005. Figures provided are reassessed and amended by TMF as necessary.

Motor vehicle

The number of motor vehicle claims for DEC fell 22% on the previous year compared to a 3% increase for all government agencies. This results from the on-going improvements in fleet management that DEC has achieved. The average cost of claims is consistent with those of other agencies.

Number of claims		
	2003–04	2004–05
DEC	321	251
All govt agencies	5,584	5,750

Source: Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) Report for quarter ending 30 June 2005. Figures provided are reassessed and amended by TMF as necessary.

Savings and work priorities

Throughout the year DEC continued to deliver core services while making adjustments to our functions and structures to savings. We have prioritised our work and implemented a targeted voluntary redundancy program.

We worked with unions and staff to put systems in place to help us manage immediate workload issues. Executive members were responsible for ensuring that where staff were asked to take on the work of a departing staff member, there was a corresponding reduction in other parts of their existing work program. As well as taking the opportunity to discuss these issues in work group meetings and directly with their supervisors, all staff were invited to provide written feedback on managing workloads to their executive directors.

The Corporate Plan, released in September 2004, set out our strategic and specific priorities for 2004–06 and established our environment and conservation agenda for the next two years. This plan and the ensuing divisional and section plans have helped prioritise our work with reduced staffing levels.

At all stages, the health and wellbeing of our people is paramount and we are committed to managing the overall workload across DEC.



Finance

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Conservation		

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Department of Environment and Conservation



GPO BOX 12 Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Department of Environment and Conservation:

- presents fairly the Department of Environment and Conservation's and the consolidated entity's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and
- complies with section 45E of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 (the Act).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The financial report is the responsibility of the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Conservation, it consists of the statements of financial position, the statements of financial performance, the statements of cash flows, the program statement - expenses and revenues, the summary of compliance with financial directives and the accompanying notes for the Department of Environment and Conservation and the consolidated entity. The consolidated entity comprises the Department of Environment and Conservation and the entities controlled at the year's end or during the financial year.

The Auditor's Role and the Audit Scope

As required by the Act, I carried out an independent audit to enable me to express an opinion on the financial report. My audit provides reasonable assurance to members of the New South Wales Partiament that the financial report is free of moterial misstatement.

- My audit accorded with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards and statutory
- evaluated the accounting policies and significant accounting estimates used by the Director-General in preparing the financial report, and
- examined a sample of the evidence that supports the amounts and other disclosures in the

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial report is error free. The terms 'reasonable assurance' and 'material' recognise that an audit does not examine all evidence and transactions. However, the audit procedures used should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect decisions made by users of the financial report or indicate that the Director-General had not fulfilled her reporting obligations.

My opinion does not provide assurance;

- about the future viability of the Department of Environment and Conservation or its controlled
- that they have carried out their activities effectively, efficiently and economically, about the effectiveness of their internal controls, or
- on the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial report, Audit Independence

The Audit Office comptles with all applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements. The Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

Director, Financial Audit Services

SYDNEY 24 October 2005

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Statement by the Director General

Pursuant to section 45F of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, I state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies, the applicable clauses of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2000 and the Treasurer's Directions
- (b) the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005 exhibit a true and fair view of the position and transactions of the Department of Environment and Conservation
- (c) there are no circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

LISA CORBYN **Director General**

lisa Corbyn

21 October 2005

Start of audited financial statements

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Statement of financial performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Parent				Consolidate	d
Actual 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004* \$'000		Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Budget 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004* \$'000
		Expenses Operating expenses				
229,488	171,337	Employee related	2(a)	229,718	213,126	171,533
134,232	104,896	Other operating expenses	2(b)	134,523	142,076	105,620
21,138	15,857	Maintenance	2(c)	21,138	21,298	15,857
46,147	38,232	Depreciation	2(d)	46,147	41,789	38,232
8,760	6,750	Grants and subsidies	2(e)	8,635	8,768	6,668
1,042	947	Borrowing costs	2(f)	1,042	_	947
144	184	Other expenses	2(g)	144	_	184
440,951	338,202	Total expenses		441,347	427,057	339,041
		Less:				
		Retained revenue				
26,883	17,333	Sale of goods and services	3(a)	26,883	36,094	17,333
14,816	8,437	Investment income	3(b)	14,816	2,229	8,437
2,177	1,852	Retained fees and fines	3(c)	2,573	2,551	2,691
55,586	28,526	Grants and contributions	3(d)	55,586	47,951	28,526
3,909	10,751	Other revenue	3(e)	3,909	5,600	10,751
103,371	66,900	Total retained revenue		103,767	94,425	67,739
(207)	(8)	Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets	4	(207)	(60)	(8)
337,787	271,310	NET COST OF SERVICES	26	337,787	332,692	271,310
		Government contributions				
283,731	176,260	Recurrent appropriation (net of transfer payments)	6(a)	283,731	272,186	176,260
30,554	28,903	Capital appropriation	6(b)	30,554	24,660	28,903
33,643	20,783	Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee entitlements and other liabilities	7	33,643	10,654	20,783
347,928	225,946	Total government contributions		347,928	307,500	225,946
10,141	(45,364)	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		10,141	(25,192)	(45,364)
		Non-owner transactions changes in equity				
90,366	657,088	Net increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	20	90,366	_	657,088
90,366	657,088	TOTAL REVENUES, EXPENSES AND VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUIT	Υ	90,366	-	657,088
100,507	611,724	TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS		100,507	(25,192)	611,724

^{*} The Department of Environment and Conservation was established on 24 September 2003 and the 2004 figures are for the period from that date to 30 June 2004 only.

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

Statement of financial position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

Actual 2005 2004 2005
Current assets Cash 10 69,125 56,186 53,687 18,752 15,509 Receivables 11 18,752 14,231 15,509 978 988 Inventories 12 978 1,007 988 16 16 Other financial assets 13 16 16 16 1,016 1,491 Other 14 1,016 1,141 1,491 89,887 71,690 Total current assets 89,887 72,580 71,690 Non-current assets 89,887 72,580 71,690 4,400 - Receivables 11 4,400 - - Property, plant and equipment 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 - Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 - Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621 LIABILITIES LIABILITIES
69,125 53,687 Cash 10 69,125 56,186 53,687 18,752 15,509 Receivables 11 18,752 14,231 15,509 978 988 Inventories 12 978 1,007 988 16 16 Other financial assets 13 16 16 16 1,016 1,491 Other 14 1,016 1,141 1,491 Non-current assets 89,887 72,580 71,690 Non-current assets 11 4,400 — — Property, plant and equipment 1,938,179 1,816,392 — Land and buildings 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 <td< td=""></td<>
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978 988 Inventories 12 978 1,007 988 16 16 Other financial assets 13 16 16 16 1,016 1,491 Other 14 1,016 1,141 1,491 Non-current assets 4,400 — Receivables 11 4,400 — — 1,938,179 1,816,392 — Land and buildings 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,389 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSE
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1,016 1,491 Other 14 1,016 1,141 1,491 89,887 71,690 Total current assets 89,887 72,580 71,690 Non-current assets 4,400 — Receivables 11 4,400 — — 1,938,179 1,816,392 — Land and buildings 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621
Non-current assets 89,887 72,580 71,690
Non-current assets 4,400 — Receivables 11 4,400 — Property, plant and equipment 1,938,179 1,816,392 — Land and buildings 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621
4,400 — Receivables Property, plant and equipment 11 4,400 — — 1,938,179 1,816,392 — Land and buildings 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621
Property, plant and equipment 1,938,179
1,938,179 1,816,392 — Land and buildings 15(a) 1,938,179 1,822,072 1,816,392 39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621
39,314 36,165 — Plant and equipment 15(b) 39,314 34,434 36,165 729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621
729,726 747,322 — Infrastructure systems 15(c) 729,726 728,889 747,322 2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621 LIABILITIES
2,707,219 2,599,879 Total property, plant and equipment 2,707,219 2,585,395 2,599,879 26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621 LIABILITIES
26 52 Other 14 26 52 52 52 2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621 LIABILITIES
2,711,645 2,599,931 Total non-current assets 2,711,645 2,585,447 2,599,931 2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621 LIABILITIES
2,801,532 2,671,622 TOTAL ASSETS 2,801,532 2,658,027 2,671,621 LIABILITIES
LIABILITIES
Current lightlistics
Current liabilities
12,174 11,517 Payables 16 12,174 9,768 11,517
10,926 – Interest-bearing liabilities 17 10,926 – –
22,934 22,221 Provisions 18 22,934 21,321 22,221
1,426 474 Other 19 1,426 474 474
47,460 34,212 Total current liabilities 47,460 31,563 34,212
Non-current liabilities
28,216 17,463 Interest-bearing liabilities 17 28,216 17,463 17,463
3,861 3,819 Provisions 18 3,861 3,553 3,819
32,077 21,282 Total non-current liabilities 32,077 21,016 21,282
79,537 55,494 TOTAL LIABILITIES 79,537 52,579 55,494
771 00E 2 616 120 NET ACCETS 2 731 00E 2 60E 440 2 646 427
2,721,995 2,616,128 NET ASSETS 2,721,995 2,605,448 2,616,127
Equity Equity
Equity

^{*} The Department of Environment and Conservation was established on 24 September 2003 and the 2004 figures are for the period from that date to 30 June 2004 only.

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

Statement of cash flows

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2004 TO 30 JUNE 2005

I	Parent			Consolidate	d
Actual 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004* \$'000	Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Budget 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004* \$'000
		Cash flows from operating activities			
		Payments			
(212,676)	(164,744)	Employee related	(212,676)	(201,529)	(164,744)
(8,635)	(6,668)	Grants and subsidies	(8,635)	(31,715)	(6,668)
(3)	(6)	Borrowing costs	(3)	_	(6)
(175,977)	(97,597)	Other	(175,977)	(183,712)	(97,597)
(397,291)	(269,015)	Total payments	(397,291)	(416,956)	(269,015)
		Receipts			
34,416	16,148	Sale of goods and services	34,416	36,094	16,148
2,573	2,614	Retained fees and fines	2,573	_	2,614
14,379	8,904	Investment income	14,379	2,229	8,904
66,424	45,790	Other	66,424	75,050	45,790
117,792	73,456	Total receipts	117,792	113,373	73,456
		Cash flows from government			
283,731	176,260	Recurrent appropriations 6(a)	283,731	298,133	176,260
30,554	28,903	Capital appropriations 6(b)	30,554	24,660	28,903
16,371	12,864	Cash reimbursements from the Crown Entity	16,371	10,654	12,864
330,656	218,027	Net cash flows from government	330,656	333,447	218,027
51,157	22,468	NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	51,157	29,864	22,468
		Cash flows from investing activities			
987	1,196	Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems	987	575	1,196
(58,385)	(42,397)	Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems	(58,385)	(27,940)	(42,397)
(57,398)	(41,201)	NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES 26	(57,398)	(27,365)	(41,201)
		Cash flows from financing activities			
21,700	4,903	Proceeds from borrowings and advances	21,700	_	4,903
(21)	(18)	Repayments of borrowings and advances	(21)	_	(18)
21,679	4,885	NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	21,679	_	4,885
15,438	(13,849)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash	15,438	2,499	(13,849)
53,687	-	Opening cash and cash equivalents	53,687	53,687	-
-	67,536	Cash transferred in (out) as a result of administrative restructuring	_	_	67,536
69,125	53,687	CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 10	69,125	56,186	53,687
09,125	23,08/	CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 10	09,125	20,180	23,087

^{*} The Department of Environment and Conservation was established on 24 September 2003 and the 2004 figures are for the period from that date to 30 June 2004 only.

The accompanying notes form part of these statements.

Summary of compliance with financial directives

			2002				2004*	
	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$′000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital appropriation \$'000	Expenditure/net claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
Original budget								
Appropriation expenditure								
Appropriation Act	298,133	297,328	24,660	24,355	294,413	294,021	29,323	26,128
	298,133	297,328	24,660	24,355	294,413	294,021	29,323	26,128
Other appropriations/expenditure								
Treasurer's advance	1,202	822	4,667	4,667	5,870	5,870	I	I
Section 22 – expenditure for certain works and services	I	I	I	I	I	I	1,830	1,830
Section 24 – transfers of functions between departments	I	I	I	I	518	518	800	800
Transfers to/from another agency (section 27 of the Appropriation Act)	11,528	11,528	1,532	1,532	909	909	160	160
	12,730	12,350	6,199	6,199	6,994	6,994	2,790	2,790
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURE/NET CLAIM ON CONSOLIDATED FUND (INCLUDES TRANSFER PAYMENTS)	310,863	309,678	30,859	30,554	301,407	301,015	32,113	28,918
Amount drawn down against appropriation		309,678		30,554		301,015		28,918
LIABILITY TO CONSOLIDATED FUND		1		ı		ı		1
The summary of compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund moneys are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed) * These figures are based on a full financial year for the current and formative entities for both 2004 and 2005.	ioneys are spent th 2004 and 2005	first (except whe	re otherwise ider	itified or prescribed				

Program statement – expenses and revenues

Total 2005 \$'000 2,573 55,586 200,916 134,523 21,138 46,147 8,635 1,042 14,816 3,909 103,767 347,928 25,947 149,022 229,718 144 26,883 (10,141)25,947 441,347 (207)337,787 Not attributable 2005 \$1000 200,916 Ī 347,928 25,947 149,022 25,947 (347,928)5,959 1,566 74 137 36 Program 5* 2005 \$'000 7,406 85 230 Program 4* 2005 \$'000 102,008 19,655 42,140 1,764 1,042 25,267 14,036 2,573 3,765 74,177 230,753 304,723 (207)230,753 27,167 7,602 744 2,324 553 Program 3* 2005 \$'000 2,595 38,396 439 230 3,334 35,062 35,062 Program 2* 2005 \$'000 119 269 5,883 19,587 7,246 7,246 9,506 11,367 27,146 185 84 44 11,980 546 1,277 399 Program 1* 2005 \$'000 63,309 4,783 57,320 414 **NET EXPENDITURE/(REVENUE) FOR THE YEAR** ADMINISTERED REVENUES LESS EXPENSES Administered expenses and revenues Gain/(loss) on sale of non-current assets **:OR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005** Faxes, fees and fines (Note 28) Other operating expenses Government contributions ** Agency's expenses and revenue ransfer payments (Note 8) Administered expenses Administered revenues sale of goods and services **Total retained revenue** Fransfer receipts (Note 8) Grants and contributions Setained fees and fines Net cost of services **Employee related** Grants and subsidies Retained revenue Operating expenses Investment income **Fotal expenses** Borrowing costs Other expenses Other revenue Maintenance **Depreciation** Expenses

The 2003-04 program statement reported on 11 programs. These were the original programs of the former agencies. The review of DEC's programs was conducted as part of corporate planning process. This resulted in a new program statement. Therefore the comparative figures by program for 2003–04 are not available.

^{&#}x27; The name and purpose of each program is summarised at Note 9.

Appropriations are made on an agency basis and not to individual programs. Consquently, government contributions must be included in the 'Not attributable' column.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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1. Summary of significant accounting policies

Operating statement

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- 3. Revenues
- 4. Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets
- 5. Conditions on contributions
- 6. Appropriations
- 7. Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee entitlements and other liabilities
- 8. Transfer payments
- 9. Programs/activities of the Department

Assets

- 10. Current assets cash
- 11. Current/non-current assets receivables
- 12. Current assets inventories
- 13. Current assets other financial assets
- 14. Current/non-current assets other
- 15. Non-current assets property, plant and equipment

Liabilities

- 16. Current liabilities payables
- 17. Current/non-current liabilities interest-bearing liabilities
- 18. Current/non-current liabilities provisions
- 19. Current liabilities other

Equity

- 20. Changes in equity
- 21. Increase/decrease in net assets from administrative restructuring

Other

- 22. Commitments for expenditure
- 23. Commitments revenue
- 24. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets
- 25. Budget review
- 26. Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to net cost of services
- 27. Financial instruments
- 28. Administered assets, liabilities and revenue
- 29. Impact of adopting Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) was established as a reporting entity by Public Sector Employment and Management (Environment and Conservation) Order 2003 (PSEM) made on 24 September 2003.

The PSEM (Conservation and Environment) Order 2003 abolished the department of the Crown then known as the Environment Protection Authority (the department) but retained the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) (the authority) as a separate entity which is listed under Schedule 2 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* for financial reporting purposes. The EPA (the authority) exists only as a legal mechanism, with no staff, material assets or liabilities. The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2003 which omits Section 16(b) of the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* effectively transferred the management and all operational activities of the former EPA (the department) to DEC on 24 September 2003.

Separate financial statements have been prepared for the EPA (the Authority) for the 2004–05 financial year and form part of the consolidated financial statements of DEC. However, the financial data for 2003–04 predominantly relates to the period ending 23 September 2003.

For the 2003–04 reporting period, DEC's financial statements are from 24 September 2003 to 30 June 2004.

The entity also encompasses funds which, while containing assets that are restricted for specific uses by the grantor, donor but are nevertheless controlled by DEC.

The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

(b) Basis of accounting

DEC's financial statements are a general purpose financial report which have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)
- other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB)
- Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulations
- the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies issued by the Treasurer under section 9(2)(n) of the Act.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

In the absence of a specific accounting standard, other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB, or UIG Consensus View, the hierarchy of other pronouncements as outlined in AAS 6 Accounting Policies is considered.

Except for certain non-current assets, which are recorded at fair value, the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(c) Administered activities

DEC administers, but does not control, certain activities on behalf of the Crown Entity. It is accountable for the transactions relating to those administered activities but does not have the discretion, for example, to deploy the resources for the achievement of DEC own objectives.

Transactions and balances relating to the administered activities are not recognised as DEC's revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, but are disclosed in the accompanying schedules as 'Administered revenues' and 'Administered expenses'.

(d) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when DEC has control of the good, or right to receive; it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to DEC; and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of revenue are discussed below.

(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies

Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies (including grants and donations) are generally recognised as revenues when DEC obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations and contributions. Control over appropriations and contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

An exception to the above is when appropriations are unspent at year end. In this case, the authority to spend the money lapses and generally the unspent amount must be repaid to the Consolidated Fund in the following financial year. As a result, any unspent appropriations are accounted for as liabilities rather than revenue.

Any amount owing to the Consolidated Fund (except any liability in respect of transfer payments) is accounted for as a current liability. The liability (if any) would be disclosed as part of 'Current liabilities – payable'. The amount would then be repaid and the liability would be extinguished in the next financial year.

(ii) Sale of goods and services

Revenue from the sale of goods and services comprises revenue from the provision of products or services, i.e. user charges. User charges are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control of the assets that result from

(iii) Investment Income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues. Rent revenue is recognised in accordance with AAS 17 'Accounting for

(iv) Taxes, fines, regulatory fees and contributions

Taxes, fines, regulatory fees and contributions collected by DEC on behalf of the Crown are not recognised as revenues of DEC and are disclosed in the financial report by way of a note only. Waste-related levies and fees are shown net of rebates (refer to Note 28). All Crown revenue is recorded on an accrual basis except waste levies which are treated on a cash basis due to the nature of their collection.

(e) Employee benefits and other provisions

(i) Salaries and wages, annual leave, sick leave and on-costs

Liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits) and annual leave are recognised and measured in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date at nominal amounts based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

The outstanding amounts of payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

(ii) Long service leave and superannuation

DEC's liabilities for long service leave and superannuation are assumed by the Crown Entity. DEC accounts for the liability as having been extinguished resulting in the amount assumed being shown as part of the non-monetary revenue item described as 'Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities'.

Long service leave is measured using the present value basis. The new valuation method adopted the remuneration rates expected to be paid as recommended by Treasury Circular (TC03/08) 'Accounting for long service leave' rather than the salary rate as at 30 June 2005.

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employee's salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

(iii) Other provisions

Other provisions exist when DEC has a present legal, equitable or constructive obligation to make a future sacrifice of economic benefits to other entities as a result of past transactions or other past events. These provisions are recognised when it is probable that a future sacrifice of economic benefit will be required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Any provisions for restructuring are recognised either when a detailed formal plan has been developed or will be developed within a prescribed time limit and where the entity has raised a valid expectation in those affected by the restructuring that it will carry out the restructuring.

(f) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred (except where they are included in the cost of qualifying assets).

(a) Insurance

DEC's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund (TMF) Scheme of self insurance for government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the fund manager based on past experience.

(h) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where:

- the amount of GST incurred by the agency as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

(i) Assets not able to be reliably measured

DEC holds certain assets, which have not been recognised in the statement of financial position because the value of these assets cannot be measured reliably. These assets include historical buildings (not in use) and cultural artefacts.

(j) Acquisition of assets

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by DEC. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus the costs incidental to the acquisition.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration during the year, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition (see contributed assets - Notes 3(d) and 15). Refer also to assets transferred as a result of an administrative restructure - Note 21.

Fair value means the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between a knowledgeable, willing buyer and a knowledgeable, willing seller in an arm's length transaction.

Land transferred from other agencies at no cost, awaiting gazettal, is reported at fair value.

Infrastructure assets and property previously under construction which was completed and brought to account during the year have been valued at cost until that class of assets is revalued.

(k) Plant and equipment

All assets in excess of \$5,000 are capitalised. Items below \$5,000 are expensed except where they form an integral part of a network or facility (e.g. DEC radio network or wide area network). Plant and equipment comprises aircraft, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings, and other plant and equipment.

(I) Revaluation of physical non-current assets

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the Treasury's 'Guidelines for the Valuation of Physical Noncurrent Assets at Fair Value' (TPP 03-02). This policy is consistent with AASB 1041'Revaluation of non-current assets' with respect to fair value.

DEC is a not-for-profit entity and does not hold assets predominantly for revenue generation.

As a result of the size and nature of its assets (land, buildings, roads and other access, utilities and other infrastructure) DEC revalues its physical non-current assets on a five-year cycle.

Set out below is a table of asset categories, dates last valued and by whom:

Asset category	Date of valuation	By whom
Land – dedicated	30 June 2005	NSW Department of Commerce *
Land – non-dedicated	30 June 2005	NSW Department of Commerce *
Buildings	1 July 2001	Australian Valuation Office
Other amenities and facilities	1 July 2004	DEC Engineers **
Roads	1 July 2003	DEC Engineers
Wharves	1 July 2003	DEC Engineers
Utilities and other infrastructure	1 July 2001	DEC Engineers
Aircraft	1 July 2001	Bankstown Aviation Aircraft Valuation Specialist
Historical furniture and fittings	1 July 2001	Tony Palmer Pty Ltd

Land dedicated and non-dedicated valuations are in accordance with the 'Guidelines for the Valuation of Physical Non-current Assets at Fair value' (TPP03-02) and AASB 1041 Revaluation of Non-current Assets.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historic cost, as a surrogate for fair value.

When revaluing non-current assets by reference to current prices for assets newer than those revalued (adjusted to reflect the present condition of the assets), the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation is separately stated.

Otherwise, any balances of accumulated depreciation existing at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net asset accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in the surplus/deficit, the increment is recognised immediately as revenue in the surplus/deficit.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as expenses in the surplus/deficit, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset, they are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

Revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current assets, but not otherwise.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is disposed of, any balance remaining in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

Other amentities and facilities valuations are based on statewide standard costs derived by DEC engineers. These costs reflect the cost standards required to construct DEC picnic areas, camping grounds, lookouts and external interpretive signs.

(m) Depreciation of non-current physical assets

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their expected useful life to DEC. This reflects the consumption of their service potential. The straight-line method is used to depreciate non-current assets.

Land is not a depreciated asset.

Certain heritage assets (in use) with an extremely long useful life are not depreciated. Depreciation for these cannot be reliably measured because the useful life and the net amount to be recovered at the end of the useful life cannot be reliably ascertained. In these cases, depreciation is not recognised. The decision not to recognise depreciation for these assets is reviewed annually.

Buildings and improvements

■ The construction type of DEC buildings is used to determine the asset's useful life (from which a depreciation rate is derived). For example, historic buildings in use are deemed to have useful lives of between 40 and 100 years; visitor centres and staff residences: 40 to 80 years, etc.

Roads and other access; utilities and other infrastructure

■ The following depreciation rates have been adopted:

2.5% for roads; car parks, fire trails and management tracks; walking tracks, bridges, picnic areas, camping areas and

5% for boat ramps and wharves, utilities and other infrastructure

except where bridges, boat ramps, wharves and utilities have been independently valued, an assessment of the useful life of each asset was carried out and the depreciation rate was derived accordingly.

Plant and equipment

■ Depreciation rates applied vary from 10% to 25% per annum.

(n) Capital maintenance and repairs expenditure

Irrespective of funds source, details of labour, materials, contractor and other direct costs incurred on asset construction projects are maintained for subsequent capitalisation into DEC's asset register.

The costs of maintenance are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a significant component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

(o) Leased assets

Under certain leases granted by DEC, the lessee will maintain or improve the leased property which, at the expiry of the lease, reverts to the ownership of DEC. Alternatively, where land is leased, property may be built on the land by the lessee and at the expiry of the lease, ownership of the property transfers to DEC.

Assets and improvements are brought to account by DEC upon expiry of the lease when actual ownership and control reverts to the DEC. Upon assumption of ownership, the asset will be included in the DEC assets register. Examples of such prospective assets include commercial buildings and infrastructure such as marinas and ski lifts (excluding associated plant and machinery) built by lessees on DEC property.

Operating lease payments are charged to the statement of financial performance in the periods in which they are incurred.

(p) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount plus any penalty interest less a provision for uncollectable debts. DEC uses set criteria based on elapsed time (6 months) from payment due date across all revenues except for leased debt which usually is bound by a contract and has a lien on the assets involved. However, where advice is received that any debtor is experiencing financial difficulties, these are also treated as doubtful debts and included in the provision.

Bad debts are written off as incurred.

(q) Inventories

Generally, the quantum of inventory held is small. DEC relies on end-of-year stock takes to identify shop stocks for reporting purposes. Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost is calculated using the weighted average cost. Shop stocks held for 12 months or more and considered to be unsaleable are regarded as obsolete and are expensed.

(r) Other financial assets

'Other financial assets' are generally recognised at cost, with the exception of TCorp Hour-Glass Facilities and Managed Fund Investments, which are measured at market value, as provided by the Treasury Corporation. Investments are valued at cost. Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues.

(s) Other assets

Other assets are prepayments and are recognised on a cost basis.

(t) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to DEC and other amounts, including interest. Interest is accrued over the period it becomes due.

(u) Interest-bearing liabilities

All loans are valued at current capital value. These loans are restricted for specific purposes. The repayment schedule and effective date from which borrowing cost will be determined is yet to be finalised.

The budgeted amounts are drawn from budgets as formulated at the beginning of the financial year (state budget) and with any adjustments for the effects of additional appropriations under s.21A, s.24, and/or s.27 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Treasurer's advances.

The budgeted amounts in the statement of financial performance and the statement of cash flows are generally based on amounts disclosed in the NSW Budget Papers (as adjusted above). However, in the statement of financial position, the amounts vary from the Budget papers, as the opening balances of the budgeted amounts are based on carried forward actual amounts, i.e. per the audited financial statements (rather than carried forward estimates).

(w) Marine Parks Authority

DEC administers jointly with the Department of Primary Industries certain assets on behalf of the Marine Parks Authority. These assets are the areas covered by the four established marine parks at Jervis Bay, Solitary Islands, Cape Byron and Lord Howe Island.

DEC's capital equipment used for maintaining day-to-day operations of these four administered assets has been recognised and reported in accordance with DEC's Asset Acquisition and Valuation Policy – Notes 1(j)and &(l).

The operating costs incurred by DEC in administering these assets, which are included in the statement of financial performance, was \$1,240,891 (\$967,478 in 2003-04).

(x) Restricted assets

DEC has under its control a wide range of assets, such as historic buildings, dedicated land and specified sites, which are subject to restrictions on their use by virtue of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

These restrictions include disposal of the asset or, under certain circumstances, exploitation for financial or economic gain. Additional restrictions may be brought to bear by the DEC's stakeholders as well as other legislation governing the use of historic sites and buildings.

DEC also conducts research projects on behalf of a wide range of donor bodies. These bodies provide funds that are restricted to use on projects specified by the donor body. Strict terms and conditions can apply to the use of these funds. Any unspent funds can be returned to the donor bodies.

(y) Equity transfers

The transfer of net assets between agencies as a result of an administrative restructure, transfer of programs/functions and parts thereof between NSW public sector agencies is designated as a contribution by owners by NSW Treasury Circular 01/11 and recognised as an adjustment to 'Accumulated funds'. This treatment is consistent with Urgent Issues Group Abstract UIG 38 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-owned Public Sector Entities'.

Transfers arising from an administrative restructure between government agencies are recognised at the amount at which the asset was recognised by the transferor government agency immediately prior to the restructure. In most instances this will approximate fair value. All other equity transfers are recognised at fair value.

2. **Expenses**

Parent			Coi	nsolidated
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		(a) Employee-related expenses		
173,966	133,538	Salary and wages (including recreation leave)*	174,196	133,734
17,338	13,343	Superannuation	17,338	13,343
16,905	6,246	Long service leave	16,905	6,246
2,926	3,899	Workers' compensation insurance	2,926	3,899
11,548	11,212	Payroll tax and fringe benefits tax	11,548	11,212
6,805	3,099	Other	6,805	3,099
229,488	171,337		229,718	171,533

^{*} Salaries and wages amounting to \$957,003 have been capitalised.

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		(b) Other operating expenses		
235	262	Auditor's remuneration	235	262
		(audit or review of the financial statements)		
1,477	1,084	Cost of sales	1,477	1,084
490	310	Bad and doubtful debts	490	310
12,460	7,922	Operating lease rental expenses (minimum lease payments)	12,460	7,922
3,740	2,538	Other occupancy costs	3,740	2,538
35,730	23,229	Insurance	35,730	23,229
5,741	3,715	Communication costs	5,742	3,715
2,902	1,799	Energy costs	2,902	1,799
39,777	36,353	Fees and services	39,777	36,353
6,007	5,034	Information dissemination	6,007	5,034
934	1,338	Legal costs	1,215	2,063
10,076	6,593	Stores and minor assets	10,076	6,593
14,233	14,118	Travel costs	14,242	14,118
430	600	Other	430	600
134,232	104,896		134,523	105,620
		(c) Maintenance		
3,174	2,118	Buildings and improvements	3,174	2,118
6,787	5,557	Roads and other access	6,787	5,557
4,122	2,739	Utilities and other infrastructure	4,122	2,739
6,165	4,378	Plant and equipment	6,165	4,378
347	145	Furniture and fittings	347	145
543	920	Other	543	920
21,138	15,857		21,138	15,857
		(d) Danyagiation		
7,501	E E60	(d) Depreciation	7 501	E E60
	5,568 18,267	Buildings and improvements Roads and other access	7,501	5,568
20,167	18,267 5,694	Utilities and other infrastructure	20,167	18,267
7,962	•		7,962	5,694
8,767	8,181	Plant and equipment	8,767	8,181
1,750	522	Furniture and fittings	1,750	522
46,147	38,232		46,147	38,232
		(e) Grants and subsidies		
151	_	Federal government	151	_
2,442	478	NSW state government	2,317	396
3,247	1,492	Local government	3,247	1,492
2,920	4,780	Non-government organisations	2,920	4,780
8,760	6,750		8,635	6,668
		(f) Borrowing costs		
1,042	947	Borrowing costs	1,042	947
1,042	947		1,042	947
		(g) Other expenses		
143	109	Bank charges	143	109
1	75	Miscellaneous	1	75
144	184		144	184

3. **Revenues**

	Parent		Con	solidated
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		(a) Sale of goods and services		
		Sale of goods:		
11,676	6,141	Annual and day entry	11,676	6,141
5,428	4,063	Camping fees	5,428	4,063
17	90	Sale of assets under \$5000	17	90
2,408	1,901	Sale of publications and stock	2,408	1,901
19,529	12,195		19,529	12,195
		Rendering of services:		
2,841	1,359	Community service	2,841	1,359
2,098	1,722	Hire of facilities	2,098	1,722
1,839	1,623	Miscellaneous park service	1,839	1,623
576	434	Minor user charges	576	434
7,354	5,138		7,354	5,138
26,883	17,333	TOTAL	26,883	17,333
		(b) Investment income		
3,253	2,242	Interest	3,253	2,242
11,563	6,195	Lease and rental of premises	11,563	6,195
14,816	8,437	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	14,816	8,437
		(c) Retained fees and fines		
644	832	Fees – licenses and permits	644	832
1,113	676	Fees – kangaroo and other royalties	1,113	676
420	344	Fines – parking, court and other	816	1,183
2,177	1,852		2,573	2,691
		(d) Grants and contributions		
		Funding was provided by the Commonwealth and state governments together with private and corporate sponsorship as follows (Note 5):		
2,167	1,874	Federal government	2,167	1,874
45,595	23,033	NSW state government	45,595	23,033
228	_	Other state governments	228	_
213	59	Local government	213	59
6,814	1,891	Non-government	6,814	1,891
569	1,669	Contributed assets	569	1,669
55,586	28,526		55,586	28,526
		(e) Other revenue		
3,581	8,996	Insurance recoveries	3,581	8,996
2	39	Telephone rebate	2	39
326	1,716	Miscellaneous	326	1,716
3,909	10,751		3,909	10,751

(f) Revenue forgone

DEC's revenue does not include park use fees which the Department forgoes through concessions such as free and discounted park use permits provided to certain groups, including pensioners, volunteer firefighters, etc.

Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets

Parent			Co	nsolidated
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		Proceeds from disposal		
259	246	Land and buildings	259	246
728	951	Plant and equipment	728	951
-	-	Infrastructure	_	-
		Written down value of assets disposed		
(671)	(181)	Land and buildings	(671)	(181)
(177)	(1,024)	Plant and equipment	(177)	(1,024)
(346)	-	Infrastructure	(346)	-
(207)	(8)	Net gain/(loss) on disposal	(207)	(8)

Conditions on contributions 5.

DEC received contributions for specific purposes, e.g. restoration works or scientific research projects. The amount received during this period was \$44,916,230 (\$28,526,301 in 2004).

Usually the conditions imposed upon DEC stipulate that grants provided are required to be spent on the specific project for which the funds were provided. Usually any funds that are not used on the specific project must be refunded to the donor

No externally imposed financial restrictions are operable in respect of DEC's assets (except cash) as a result of such contributions. In the case of research grants, assets of an intangible nature (e.g. intellectual property) may ensue. Due to the valuation difficulties and immateriality, all costs incurred are expensed.

The contributions which were unexpended as at 30 June 2005 were \$47,470,593 (\$36,752,250 in 2004).

Contributions which are unexpended at balance date are considered to be restricted assets.

Appropriations

Parent			Consolidated		
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	
		(a) Recurrent appropriation			
309,678	197,619	Total recurrent drawdowns from Treasury*	309,678	197,619	
		Less: liability to Consolidated Fund*			
309,678	197,619		309,678	197,619	
		Comprising:			
283,731	176,260	Recurrent appropriation**	283,731	176,260	
25,947	21,359	Transfer payments (see Note 8)	25,947	21,359	
309,678	197,619		309,678	197,619	
		(b) Capital appropriation			
30,554	28,903	Total capital drawdowns from Treasury*	30,554	28,903	
		Less: liability to Consolidated Fund*			
30,554	28,903		30,554	28,903	
		Comprising:			
30,554	28,903	Capital appropriation**	30,554	28,903	
30,554	28,903		30,554	28,903	

as per summary of compliance

^{**} as per statement of financial performance

Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee entitlements and other liabilities 7.

Parent			Consolidat	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		The following liabilities/expenses have been assumed by the Crown Entity:		
17,227	13,482	Superannuation	17,227	13,482
15,382	6,385	Long service leave	15,382	6,385
1,034	916	Payroll tax on superannuation	1,034	916
33,643	20,783		33,643	20,783

8. **Transfer Payments**

50	-	Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife	50	-
450	4,883	Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust	450	4,883
1,003	310	Lord Howe Island Board	1,003	310
24,444	16,166	Zoological Parks Board	24,444	16,166
25,947	21,359		25,947	21,359

9. **Programs/activities of the Department**

Program 1: Environment protection and regulation

Objective(s): To require and encourage environment protection across industry, government and the broader community.

Program 2: Sustainability programs

Objective(s): To enable individuals, government, business and organisations to adopt actions that accelerate the shift towards environmentally sustainable practices for waste and resource use.

Program 3: Policy and science

Objective(s): To ensure environment protection and conservation efforts by government, industry and the community are underpinned by sound policy and strong science.

Program 4: Parks and wildlife

Objective(s): To protect biodiversity and cultural heritage by managing NSW protected areas, including national parks, wilderness areas and marine parks, and by partnering communities on off-park protected areas.

Program 5: Cultural heritage

Objective(s): To assess and protect cultural heritage in NSW including Aboriginal heritage across the state and historic heritage on reserves.

The 2003–04 program statement reported on 11 programs. These programs were the original programs of the former agencies. The review of the DEC's programs was conducted as part of corporate planning process. This resulted in a new program statement. Therefore the comparative figures by program for 2003–04 are not available.

10. Current assets – cash

Parent			Cor	nsolidated
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
37,480	28,009	Cash at bank	37,480	28,009
137	131	Cash on hand	137	131
31,508	25,547	Cash at T-Corp	31,508	25,547
69,125	53,687	Closing cash or equivalents (as per statement of cash flows)	69,125	53,687

Some of the cash at TCorp is a restricted asset as it was provided by the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority to assist with the remediation of sites formerly occupied by that organisation.

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes all the above catergories.

11. Current/non-current assets – receivables

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		Current		
14,305	12,972	Debtors	14,305	12,972
719	898	Real estate debtors	719	898
4,480	2,470	GST	4,480	2,470
(752)	(831)	Less: provision for doubtful debts	(752)	(831)
18,752	15,509		18,752	15,509
		Non-current		
4,400	0	Debtors	4,400	0
4,400	0		4,400	0

Debts written off during the period amounted to \$568,722 (\$43,862 in 2004).

12. Current assets – inventories

978	988	Finished goods — shop stocks	978	988
978	988		978	988

13. Current assets – other financial assets

16	16	Interest-bearing deposits	16	16
16	16		16	16

14. Current/non-current assets – other

		Current		
1,016	1,491	Prepayments	1,016	1,491
1,016	1,491		1,016	1,491
		Non-current		
26	52	Prepayments	26	52
26	52		26	52
1,042	1,543	Total	1,042	1,543

15. Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		(a) Land and buildings		
1,750,499	1,638,508	Land at fair value	1,750,499	1,638,508
328,371	317,641	Buildings at fair value	328,371	317,641
(140,691)	(139,757)	Less: accumulated depreciation of buildings	(140,691)	(139,757)
1,938,179	1,816,392		1,938,179	1,816,392
		(b) Plant and equipment		
103,178	102,267	Plant and equipment at fair value	103,178	101,656
(72,768)	(70,370)	Less: accumulated depreciation of plant and equipment	(72,768)	(69,758)
19,207	8,851	Furniture and fittings at fair value	19,207	8,851
(10,303)	(4,583)	Less: accumulated depreciation of furniture and fittings	(10,303)	(4,583)
39,314	36,165		39,314	36,165
		(c) Infrastructure systems		
809,796	804,584	Roads and other access at fair value	809,796	804,584
(177,358)	(157,156)	Less accumulated depreciation of roads and other access	(177,358)	(157,156)
175,726	170,371	Utilities and other infrastructure at fair value	175,726	170,371
(78,438)	(70,477)	Less accumulated depreciation of utilities and other infrastructure	(78,438)	(70,477)
729,726	747,322		729,726	747,322
2,707,219	2,599,879	Total property, plant and equipment at fair value	2,707,219	2,599,879

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment by DEC at the end of the current financial year are set out below.

minimized year are set out below.	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Infrastructure systems \$'000	Total \$'000
2005				
Carrying amount at start of year	1,816,392	36,165	747,322	2,599,879
Additions	33,662	13,843	10,879	58,384
Disposals	(671)	(177)	(346)	(1,194)
Acquisitions through administrative restructures	5,361	-	-	5,361
Net revaluation increment *	90,367			90,367
Depreciation expense	(7,501)	(10,517)	(28,129)	(46,147)
Other movements – Free of cost	569	-	-	569
Carrying amount at end of year	1,938,179	39,314	729,726	2,707,219

^{*}See Note 1(I)

DEC holds certain assets, which are not included in the financial statements as they cannot be measured reliably: see Note 1(i).

DEC also continues to derive service potential and economic benefit from some fully depreciated assets that have not been revalued this financial year. The effect of International Financial Reporting Standards is expected to be minimal as most fully depreciated assets are likely to be in poor condition and therefore may or may not have zero value. A detailed individual assesment of fully depreciated assets in use is planned for 2005–06.

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
4,621	4,019	Buildings	4,621	4,019
50,813	44,203	Plant and equipment	50,813	44,203
8,580	6,121	Infrastructure	8,580	6,121
64,014	54,343		64,014	54,343

16. Current liabilities – payables

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
6,980	6,204	Creditors	6,980	6,204
580	2,445	Voluntary redundancies	580	2,445
4,614	2,868	Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	4,614	2,868
12,174	11,517		12,174	11,517

Current/non-current liabilities – interest-bearing liabilities

39,142	17,463	Interest-bearing advance	39,142	17,463
39,142	17,463		39,142	17,463

	Perisher Development *	Western Land **	GEEIP ***	Water for Life ****	Total
Not later than one year	_	9,900,000	25,945	1,000,000	10,925,945
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	7,900,000	12,973	_	7,912,973
Later than five years	-	-	-	-	_
To be confirmed by NSW Treasury	20,303,000	_	_	-	20,303,000
Total (including GST)	20,303,000	17,800,000	38,918	1,000,000	39,141,918

DEC has drawn down a repayable advance to meet costs associated with the Perisher Resort Development i.e. to meet the costs associated with the development of a masterplan and upgrading the water in the Perisher area. The repayable schedule of the interest-bearing repayable advances will be determined in the context of the Infrastructure Strategy which will need to be approved by Cabinet.

While DEC did not have the powers to borrow funds (i.e. loans) under the Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987, specific approval was given by the NSW Treasurer for these advances.

18. Current/non-current – provisions

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		Employee benefits and related on-costs		
21,254	20,576	Recreation leave	21,254	20,576
1,275	1,237	Recreation leave on-costs	1,275	1,237
405	408	Long service leave on-cost — current	405	408
3,861	3,819	Long service leave on-cost – non-current	3,861	3,819
26,795	26,040	Total provisions	26,795	26,040
		Aggregate employee benefits and related on-costs		
22,934	22,221	Provisions – current	22,934	22,221
3,861	3,819	Provisions – non-current	3,861	3,819
5,195	2,868	Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs (Note 16)	5,195	2,868
31,990	28,908		31,990	28,908

DEC has drawn down a non-interest capital repayable advance to meet some of the acquisition costs of land for reservation in the Western Division of the state.

^{***} DEC has drawn down \$90,219 of a Crown advance as part of the Government Energy Efficiency (GEEIP) Investment Program. The advance is being repaid in half-yearly instalments of principal and interest over a period of four years effective from when the advance is drawn down.

^{****} DEC has received an non-interest advance from NSW Treasury to provide funding for the Water for Life advertising campaign. The advance to be repaid in 2005-06.

19. Current liabilities - other

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
471	474	Security deposits	471	474
955	_	Prepaid income	955	_
1,426	474		1,426	474

20. Changes in equity

Accumulated funds 2004 \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve 2004 \$'000		Accumulated funds 2005 \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve 2005 \$'000	Total equity 2005 \$'000
-	_	Balance at the beginning	1,662,619	953,508	2,616,127
		Changes in equity – transactions with owners as owners			
1,707,985	296,418	Increase/(decrease) in net assets from administrative restructuring (Note 21)	5,361		5,361
1,707,985	296,418		1,667,980	953,508	2,621,488
		Changes in equity – other than transactions with owners as owners			
(45,364)		Surplus/(deficit) for the year	10,141	_	10,141
		Increment (decrement) on revaluation of:			
	356,370	Land and buildings		90,366	90,366
	300,718	Infrastructure systems		-	-
(45,364)	657,088		10,141	90,366	100,507
1,662,619	953,508	Balance at the end of the financial year	1,678,121	1,043,874	2,721,995

21. Increase/decrease in net assets from administrative restructuring

Other administrative restructures transferred since the formation of the DEC are:

Parent		Co	nsolidated		
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000			2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
5,361	2,004,403	Increase/(decrease) in net assets	from administration restructures	5,361	2,004,403
5,361	2,004,403			5,361	2,004,403
The 2004 tra	The 2004 transactions include assets/liabilities transferred in the formation of DEC				
	National Parks and Wildlife Service			_	2,058,454
		Environment Protection Author	oury	_	32,566
		Resource NSW		_	15,971
	Transfers of land and associated infrastructure from other agencies, which are treated as 'administrative restructuring' (refer Note 1(y)) are detailed below:				
		State Forests of NSW	(Land)	_	102
		Roads and Traffic Authority	(Land and Infrastructure)	154	(81,736)
		Crown Entity	(Land and Infrastructure)	5,199	(20,954)
		Transgrid	(Land)	8	_
				5,361	2,004,403

22. Commitments for expenditure

	Parent		Co	nsolidated
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
		(a) Capital commitments*		
		Aggregate capital expenditure contracted at balance date and not provided for:		
667	391	Not later than one year	667	391
_	-	Later than one year and not later than five years	_	-
_	-	Later than five years	_	_
667	391	Total (including GST)	667	391
		(b) Other expenditure commitments* Aggregate other expenditure contracted at balance date		
		and not provided for:		
3,350	1,695	Not later than one year	3,350	1,695
-	-	Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
-	-	Later than five years	_	-
3,350	1,695	Total (including GST)	3,350	1,695
		(c) Operating lease commitments*		
		Future non-cancellable operating lease rentals not provided for and payable:		
18,653	18,306	Not later than one year	18,653	18,306
46,162	50,046	Later than one year and not later than five years	46,162	50,046
7,113	12,281	Later than five years	7,113	12,281
71,928	80,633	Total (including GST)	71,928	80,633

Operating leases are for office accommodation, plant and equipment and motor vehicles.

The value of this contingent asset is \$6,903,985 (\$7,330,316 in 2004), which represents commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised in the statements as liabilities.

23. Commitment – revenue

		Future non-cancellable operating leases not provided for and receivable:		
4,266	4,167	Not later than one year	4,266	4,167
15,585	14,690	Later than one year and not later than five years	15,585	14,690
61,090	80,614	Later than five years	61,090	80,614
80,941	99,471	Total (including GST)	80,941	99,471

^{*} As a consequence of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a contingent liability is included in the

The value of this contingent liability is \$2,435,769 (\$4,266,975 for 2004).

DEC's revenue commitments arise from a varied portfolio of commercial leases that enable private operators to utilise specific sites in national parks for a specific period of time. These lease contracts are often complex. Many contain clauses that create difficulties in estimating, with any certainty, the quantum of future commitments as the revenue is subject to various contingent factors, such as future Consumer Price Index over extended periods, sales turnover (which is itself subject to the vagaries of weather) and/or taxable income. DEC management considers that this category of leases cannot be reliably measured and has therefore excluded these leases from the above figures.

The lease commitments reflected in this note relate solely to leases that specify a base rent component or receivables calculated as a percentage of land value, which in certain cases, is the minimum lease revenue that could be expected in future years.

^{*} As a consequence of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), a contingent asset is included in the commitments above.

24. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

There is a claim for compensation for land acquired at Jervis Bay under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act* 1991. If agreement cannot be reached, the amount of compensation will be determined by the Land and Environment Court. Proceedings are currently before the Court but will not be finalised for some years. At this point it is not possible to determine what impact this will have on DEC's financial position. The impact will be reviewed on a regular basis.

On 18 July 2003 The Land and Environment Court ordered DEC to acquire land owned by Shoalhaven City Council near Jervis Bay. The land has been reserved for inclusion in the Jervis Bay National Park. It is likely that the council will formally request DEC to acquire the land in 2005–06. It is not possible to quantify the impact on the DEC financial position due to uncertainty about likely future action by the parties and the timing thereof.

Treasury Managed Fund

In December–January 2001–02 and 2002–03, fires occurred across a large proportion of the state. There are civil law suits against DEC by property holders who sustained property damage during the fires.

DEC has a number of ongoing public liability claims managed for it by the Treasury Managed Fund.

DEC's insurable risk should adequately cover all these claims.

Other than the above, DEC is not aware of any significant or material contingent liability in existence at 30 June 2005 or which has emerged subsequent to this date, which may materially impact on the financial position of the DEC as shown in the Financial Statements.

25. Budget review

Net cost of services

The actual net cost of services was higher than budget by \$5,095,443.

This was primarily due to:

(a)	The financial reporting code states that 'budget amount must not be adjusted for section 22
	of the PFAA, Treasurer's Advance payments and transfers from another agency
	(ie s26 of Appropriation Act 2000)'

	If these appropriation supplementation movements were included to match expenditure
	incurred the effect would reduce the variance by
(b)	depreciation being higher than original forecast

(c) borrowing costs not originally budgeted for

(d) the loss on disposal of non-current assets being higher than anticipated,

which was partially offset by:

(e) assumption of part of the liability to the Crown Transaction Entity by the Environmental Trust for the purchase of western lands.

(\$10,100,000)

\$12,730,000

\$4,357,978

\$1,041,595

\$147,034

Assets and liabilities

Net assets was higher by \$116,546,182

This was primarily due to:

(a) The financial reporting code states that 'budget amount must not be adjusted for section 22 of the PFAA, Treasurer's Advance payments and transfers from another agency (ie s26 of *Appropriation Act 2000*)'

If these appropriation supplementation movements were included to match expenditure incurred the effect would reduce the variance by

incurred the effect would reduce the variance by

(b) revaluation of land has not been factored into the budget papers which

were prepared much earlier

(c) revaluation of infrastructure not being factored into the budget papers which were prepared much earlier

(d) an increase in restricted cash particularly due to an increase in the unexpended balance of grants received,

which was partially offset by:

(e) increased liabilities due to receiving extra advances for Perisher development works and for the purchase of western lands.

\$10,718,343

(\$21,678,918)

\$6,199,000

\$116,106,957

\$836,786

Cash flows

The net increase in cash flow was higher than expected by \$12,938,274.

This was primarily due to:

(a) The purchase of western lands increasing the cash flow from investing activity which was partially offset by the proceeds from borrowing and advances

\$7,700,000

26. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to net cost of services

Parent			Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
(51,157)	(22,468)	Net cash flows used on operating activities	(51,157)	(22,468)
314,285	205,163	Government appropriations (recurrent and capital)	314,285	205,163
33,643	20,783	Acceptance by Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	33,643	20,783
46,147	38,232	Depreciation	46,147	38,232
(569)	(1,669)	Contributed assets	(569)	(1,669)
(7,643)	6,467	Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(7,643)	6,467
10	10	Decrease/(increase) in inventories	10	10
501	23,957	Decrease/(increase) in prepayments and other assets	501	23,957
755	3,183	Increase/(decrease) in provisions	755	3,183
657	(2,416)	Increase/(decrease) in creditors	657	(2,416)
952	60	Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	952	60
207	8	Net loss/(gain) on sale of plant and equipment	207	8
337,787	271,310	Net cost of services	337,787	271,310

27. Financial instruments

Financial Instruments give rise to positions that are financial assets or liabilities (or equity instruments) of either DEC or its counter parties. These include cash at bank, investments, receivables and accounts payable. Classes of instruments are recorded at cost and are carried at net fair value.

(a) Cash

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11 am unofficial cash rate adjusted for a management fee.

The deposits at balance date were earning an interest rate of 4.49% (4.25% in 2004) while over the period the average interest rate was 4.33% (4.06% in 2004).

(b) Other financial assets

As at 30 June 2005, DEC held two fixed-term interest-bearing deposits to the value of \$15,500 with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Deposits at 30 June 2005 were earning an average interest rate 4.84% (4.66% in 2004) while over the period the average interest rate was 3.28% (4.00% in 2004)

(c) Hour-glass Investment Facilities

DEC has funds in TCorp's Hour-Glass Investment Facilities. DEC's investment is represented by a number of units in managed investment within the facilities. Each facility has different investment horizons and comprises a mix of asset classes appropriate to the investment horizon. TCorp appoints and monitors fund managers and establishes and monitors the application of appropriate investment guidelines.

(d) Receivables

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts, which are known to be uncollectable, are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised when some doubt as to collection exists. The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any provision for doubtful debts). The carrying amount approximates net fair value. Sales are made on 30-day terms. All lease revenue falls due immediately after the issue of the customer invoice except where the lease rent schedule conditions stipulate otherwise.

(e) Bank overdraft

DEC does not have any bank overdraft facility. However it does have a number of operational activities/limits with the bank that have a potential to be a liability. These include cheque cashing authorities, purchase card limits, a payroll agreement and a tape negotiation authority.

(f) Trade creditors and accruals

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. No interest payments were awarded during the year.

28. Administered assets, liabilities and revenue

Receipts collected on behalf of the Consolidated Fund are not included in DEC's Financial Statements. They are brought to account as revenue in the Treasurer's Public Accounts.

Parent				Consolidated	
2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000			2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
3,347	3,941	(a) Administered assets	Receivables	3,347	3,941
(1,959)	-		Provision for doubtful debts	(1,959)	_
74	_		Cash	74	-
1,462	3,941			1,462	3,941
-	2	(b) Administered liabilities	Creditors	-	2
0	2			0	2
		(c) Administered revenues			
40,457	24,745		Pollution licences and approvals	40,457	35,242
1,437	697		Radiation licences	1,437	914
830	415		Other fees and licences	830	533
107,399	74,075		Waste-related levies and fees	107,399	97,412
(2,419)	(3,355)		Waste levy rebates	(2,419)	(2,614)
1,318	1,039		Fines	1,318	1,082
149,022	97,616	Total revenue collected	on behalf of the Crown	149,022	132,569

Debts written off amounted to \$53,001 (\$6530 in 2004 for pollution licences)

29. Impact of adopting Australian Equivalent to International Financial Reporting Standards

DEC and its associated entities will apply the Australian Equivalent to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) from 2005–06.

The transition is being managed by allocating internal resources and/or engaging consultants (where required) to analyse the pending standards and Urgent Issues Group Abstracts and thus identify key areas regarding policies, procedures, systems and financial impacts affected by the transition.

As a result of this exercise, DEC has taken the following steps to manage the transition to the new standards:

- DEC's AEIFRS Project Steering Committee, headed by the Executive Director, Corporate Services is overeeing the transition. The Project Working Group is responsible for the project and reports regularly to the Committee on progress against the plan.
- The following phases that need to be undertaken have been identified:
 - Phase 1 Establish a project team to implement the AEIFRS.
 - Phase 2 Identify key areas of impact on accounting and reporting, operational issues, systems, controls and policies including implementation timetable.
 - Phase 3 Development of any necessary systems, policies and procedures and training requirements.
 - Phase 4 Implement the AEIFRS and carry out a post-implementation review.
- To date, the following phases have been or are being implemented:
 - Phase 1 A project team has been established and meets regularly.
 - Phase 2 This phase is completed. However, it is subject to the NSW Treasury's mandated options which must be adopted by DEC.
 - Phase 3 Current impact as a result of AEIFRS is moderate. However, if ED 125 relating to grants is mandated by Treasury, major changes relating to policy, procedures and systems will need to be undertaken in a very short period of time, to ensure grants are treated correctly.

DEC has determined the key areas where changes in accounting policies are likely to impact the financial report. Some of these impacts arise because AEIFRS requirements are different from existing AASB requirements (AGAAP). Other impacts are likely to arise from options in AEIFRS. To ensure consistency at the whole-of-government level, Treasury has advised agencies of options it is likely to mandate for the NSW Public Sector. The impacts disclosed below reflect Treasury's likely mandates.

Shown below are management's best estimates as at 30 June 2005 of the estimated financial impacts of AEIFRS on DEC's equity and profit/loss.

DEC does not anticipate any material impacts on its cash flows. The actual effects of the transition may differ from the estimated figures below because of pending changes to the AEIFRS, including the UIG Interpretations and/or emerging accepted practice in their interpretation and application. DEC's accounting policies may also be affected by a proposed standard to harmonise accounting standards with Government Finance Statistics (GFS). However, the impact is uncertain because it depends on when this standard is finalised and whether it can be adopted in 2005-06.

(a) Reconciliation of key aggregates

Reconciliation of equity under existing standards (AGAAP) to equity under AEIFRS:

	Notes	2005** \$'000	2004* \$'000
Total equity under AGAAP		2,721,995	2,616,127
Adjustments to accumulated funds			
AASB 102 Inventory held for distribution	1	122	201
Reclassification of plant and equipment to intangible assets	2	-	-
Total equity under AEIFRS		2,722,117	2,616,328
* adjustments as at the date of transition ** cumulative adjustments as at date of transition plus the year ended 30 June 2005			
Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) under AGAAP to surplus/(deficit) under	der AEIFRS:		
Year ended 30 June 2005	Notes	\$'000	
Surplus/(deficit) under AGAAP		10,141	
AASB 102 Inventory held for distribution		(79)	
Surplus/(deficit) under AEIFRS:		10,062	

Based on the above, if AEIFRS had applied in 2004–05, the net cost of services would have decreased from \$337,787,000 to \$337,708,000.

Notes to table above

- 1. The adoption of AASB 102 Inventory would result in inventories held for distribution at the Dorrigo construction workshop and the Parks and Wildlife Division's uniform store at Hurstville being valued.
- 2. The adoption of AASB 138 would result in certain reclassifications from property, plant and equipment to intangible assets (e.g. computer software). At 30 June 2005 DEC computer software had a fair value of \$5,619,628 (\$4,113,191 at 30 June 2004).

(b) Grant recognition for not-for profit entities

DEC will apply the requirements in AASB 1004 'Contributions' regarding contributions of assets (including grants) and forgiveness of liabilities. There are no differences in the recognition requirements between the new AASB 1004 and the current AASB 1004. However, the new AASB 1004 may be amended by proposals in Exposure Draft (ED) 125 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments'. If the ED 125 approach is applied, revenue and/or expense recognition will not occur until either DEC supplies the related goods and services (where grants are in-substance agreements for the provision of goods and services) or until conditions are satisfied. ED 125 may therefore delay revenue recognition compared with AASB 1004, where grants are recognised when controlled. However, at this stage the timing and dollar impact of these amendments are uncertain.

Other DEC financial information

Grants to community organisations

For the period 01 July 2004 to 30 June 2005

Recipient	Amount (\$)	Program	Nature and purpose of grant
Australian Conservation Foundation (Vic)	7,500	4	Community Conservation Organisation grant
Australian Museum	19,091	3	DEC Eureka Prize for Environmental Education
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc	2,100	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Camden Head Pilot Station	182	4	Prize donation
Central Coast Community	1,000	2	Sponsorship of Central Coast Sustainable Business Conference
Coonabarabran & Upper Castlereagh Landcare Group	5,000	4	Warrambungles fox baiting program
Dept of State and Regional Development	6,000	2	Western Sydney Environment Week Sponsorship Agreement Contribution – C/N 5048 Gold Sponsorship
Eora Dharawal Tribal Elders	10,000	5	Contribution towards the construction of 'Ngara-Ba-An' walking track on Lake Illawarra
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	22,500	4	Community Conservation Organisation grant
Great Lakes Wildlife Rescue	4,500	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Gunnangarah Aboriginal Corporation	500	5	Donation towards NAIDOC Fun Day in the Park
Hunter Koala Preservation Society	1,500	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Mt Grenfell Board of Management	28,685	5	Rental payable following park handback
Mutawintji Board of Management	330,365	5	Rental payable following park handback
National Parks Association of NSW	12,500	4	Annual grant administration costs for community groups
Native Animal Trust	1,986	4	Native Animal Trust Fund Turtle Poster Contribution
Native Animal Trust Fund	8,000	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	45,000	4	Community Conservation Organisation grant
Nature Conservation Council of NSW	85,000	4	Assistance of Nature Conservation Council
Noelene Gordon	1,500	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers	6,300	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Penelope Figgis	5,000	4	Grant to the World Commision on Protected Areas
Southern Rivers CMA	30,000	4	Snowy Monaro Biodiversity program
The Wetlands Centre Australia	1,500	4	Sponsoring of 2005 Wetland Innovation Series
Total Environment Centre Inc.	45,000	4	Community Conservation Organisation grant
Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers	3,750	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
WIRES (Various Locations)	7,850	4	To assist wildlife carers rescue, care for and rehabiliate sick, injured and orphaned protected native fauna
Warrambungles Landcare Group	5,000	4	Warrambungles fox baiting program
Total grants	697,309		

Key to programs

- 1 Environment protection and regulation
- 2 Sustainability programs
- 3 Policy and science
- 4 Parks and wildlife
- 5 Cultural heritage

2004-05 Major works

Project	Cost to date \$'000	Estimated completion
Major new works		
Circle of reserves around Sydney	300	2006–07
Establishment of private lands – Western	460	2007–08
Major works-in-progress		
Establishment of new acquisitions	1,500	2007–08
Kooragang Island – wader bird habitat	568	2005–06
Pest weed & animal control	612	2006–07
Finalise Northern Regional Forest Agreement	7,370	2006–07
Conversion of vacant Crown lands	3,819	2005–06
Improvements to major metropolitan parks	3,299	2005–06
Sewerage upgrade program – Stages 1 and 2	16,977	2005–06
Land acquisition – initial works	5,445	2004–05
Kosciuszko roads and bridges	7,459	2004–05
Land acquisition – open spaces	5,956	2006–07
Establishment of Jervis Bay National Park	4,036	2005–06
Land acquisition – Dunphy Wilderness	4,688	2005–06
Computerisation		
Information technology initiatives	2,445	2004–05
Total	64,934	

There was no significant cost overruns in these projects.

Employee liabilities

Liability as at 30 June 2005	\$'000
Long service leave*	40,869
On-cost long service leave	4,266
Recreation leave	21,254
On-cost recreation leave	1,275

^{*} DEC liabilities for long service leave are assumed by the Crown Entity. Long service leave is measured using the present value basis.

Payment of accounts – performance indicators

In respect of trade creditor accounts paid on time, the Department's performance in each quarter of the 2004–05 financial year was as follows:

Trade creditor 'accounts payable' balances each quarter for the financial year 2004-05

Quarter	Current (i.e. within due date) \$	Less than 30 days overdue \$	Between 30 and 60 days overdue \$	Between 60 and 90 days overdue \$	More than 90 days overdue \$
September	9,945,763	87,517	340,958	217,023	39,611
December	597,718	1,675,216	182,906	926	84,521
March	465,321	1,750,831	199,135	66,718	90,262
June	779,450	1,645,658	102,547	6,931	10,833

^{*} Costs to date represent cumulative expenditures incurred by the formative agencies prior to the establishment of the DEC on 23 September 2004.

The main reasons for overdue accounts were:

- (i) minor purchase (usually under \$10,000) not in contract where short payment terms (7 or 14 days) were indicated on the invoice (but not prior to invoicing) and no payment discounts were involved;
- (ii) invoices issued (often in the case of computer equipment) prior to delivery or installation; and
- (iii) unsatisfactory supply or some other complication, which tends to occur more frequently with the more significant and expensive purchases.

Total accounts paid on time			Total amount paid	
Quarter	Target %	Actual %	\$	\$
September	85	91.94	88,941,836	96,734,234
December	85	80.24	50,786,911	63,292,991
March	85	76.89	45,977,643	59,797,807
June	85	88.91	116,901,232	131,482,290

The above figures also include the Environment Trust, Stormwater Trust and Waste Fund, which were originally managed by the Environment Protection Authority.

Initiatives taken during the year to improve payment performance were:

- (a) increase in on-line purchase order entry and issue
- (b) increased use of corporate credit cards for local and minor purchases
- (c) implementation of an integrated DEC SAP financial management system from 1 July 2004.

Late payment of accounts

The Department was not required to pay interest to creditors for the late payment of accounts during the year.

Credit card certification

In accordance with Treasurer's Direction 205.01, it is certified that credit card usage by officers of the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation has been in accordance with the appropriate government policy, Premier's Memorandums and Treasurer's Directions.

Major assets

By virtue of its functions, the DEC asset base covers a wide range of fixed assets and other infrastructure which have been categorised as follows for accounting purposes:

Land

Most of the land parcels in this category of assets are 'dedicated land' which includes national parks, nature reserves, historic sites and Aboriginal areas. A full list of dedicated and DEC-managed lands is included in Appendix 9, page 156.

Buildings and improvements

This category of assets includes all buildings and improvements in use or temporarily out of use. Buildings number 1310 in total. Buildings with a replacement value of \$1 million or more are:

- Audley Office, Royal National Park
- DEC Lidcombe laboratories
- Discovery Centre, Botany Bay National Park
- Dorrigo Rainforest Centre
- Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre, Morton National Park
- Fort Denison, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Gap Bluff officers' mess, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Goat Island amenities and ship repair building, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Greycliffe House, Sydney Harbour National Park
- Hartley Court House and Royal Hotel, Hartley Historic Site
- Jenkins Centre, Lane Cove National Park
- La Pérouse Museum and Gallery, Botany Bay National Park
- Long Tan residences, Scheyville National Park
- Quarantine Station, accommodation units and conference centre, Sydney Harbour National Park

- Sawpit Creek Office, Kosciuszko National Park
- Seares Visitor Centre, Port Macquarie
- Snowy Mountains Visitor Centre, Jindabyne
- Throsby Park Homestead, Throsby Park Historic Site
- Western Regional Office, Broken Hill.
- White Cliffs Visitor Centre, White Cliffs.

This category of assets also includes a number of heritage buildings in various locations, such as:

- Bare Island
- Goat Island
- Hartley Historic Site
- Hill End Historic Site
- Quarantine Station, Manly
- Rodd Island
- Barrenjoey, Port Stephens, Greencape and Cape Byron lighthouses.

In addition to buildings, this asset category includes such 'improvements' as picnic areas, campsites and lookouts. Major picnic areas and campsites (with a replacement value of \$750,000 or more) are located in Blue Mountains, Botany Bay, Cattai, Ku-ring-gai Chase and Sydney Harbour national parks, as well as in Arakoon State Conservation Area, Western Sydney Regional Park and Georges River National Park.

Roads and other access

Apart from roads of various construction, this category of assets includes access facilities which are DEC responsibilities, such as fire trails, walking tracks, car parks and bridges. Roads and other access with a replacement value of \$3 million or more are:

- Cambridge Plateau, Richmond Range National Park
- Camerons Corner Road, Sturt National Park
- Elliot Way, Kosciuszko National Park
- Geehi Walls Track, Kosciuszko National Park
- Guthega Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Kiandra to Khancoban Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Minnamurra Rainforest Walk, Budderoo National Park
- Mungo Brush Road, Myall Lakes National Park
- Olsens Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Pocket Saddle Road, Woomargama National Park
- Port Phillip Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Tantangara Road, Kosciuszko National Park
- Tin Min Road, Woomargama National Park
- Tweed Scenic Drive, Border Ranges National Park

Utilities and other infrastructure

This category of assets includes electricity reticulation, sewerage systems, levees and fences. Assets with a replacement value of \$1 million or more include sewage treatment plants in Kosciuszko National Park and water supply systems in Sydney Harbour, Lane Cove, Ku-Ring-Gai Chase, Gundabook and Yathong national parks.

Other motorised plant

The following items were valued at \$5000 or more.

Location	Tractors	Graders	Caravans	Trailers	Boats	Others*	Total
Head office	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Central Region	21	7	4	15	17	79	143
Southern Region	14	1	5	21	7	62	110
Western Region	21	6	1	20	0	15	63
Northern Region	38	3	1	32	14	81	169
EPRD**	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Policy & Science	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Total	94	17	13	88	45	237	494

 $[\]ensuremath{^{\star}}$ Items such as loaders, bobcats, skidoos and ride-on mowers.

Consultancies

A consultant is an organisation or individual engaged for a defined period of time solely to provide an expert opinion or recommendation to DEC on a specific issue or task.

Consultancies of \$30,000 or more

Consultant	Project description	Cost(\$)
Meinhardt Infrastructure & Environment	Waste Census – Construction and demolition waste disposal-based audit	239,653
The Wetlands Centre Australia	Promotion and awareness of Ramsar wetlands	93,830
Biosis Research Pty Ltd	Ecological character of Ramscar wetlands	81,818
CSIRO	Metropolitan air quality study	80,000
Dept of Infrastructure and Planning	Audley Fish Ladder (EPA)	67,020
Resitech Finance	HAMP – Audley PO works	49,274
Gillespie Economics	Economic values of Natural Resources and Environments of the NSW Coast	45,000
Uniquest Pty Ltd	State of the Parks	43,179
Community Change Pty Ltd	Litter Strategy – Assessment of littering behaviours and cleanliness across NSW	38,826
Resitech Finance	HAMP – Gogerleys Cottage	37,522
Hall, Greg	Brigalow Belt South Bioregion timber resource advice	34,695
Shepherd, J	Yanda CMCTP	33,670
Sub-total Sub-total		844,487

Consultancies less than \$30,000

Category	Number	Total Cost (\$)
Finance and accounting	6	14,745
Information technology	4	64,272
Legal	4	7,672
Management services	41	228,312
Environmental	254	1,392,750
Engineering	29	105,270
Organisational review	3	6,657
Training	5	22,819
Sub-total		1,842,497
Total consultancies		2,686,984

^{**}Environment Protection and Regulation Divison.

Environment Protection Authority

EPA accounts

With the establishment of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), the department known as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) was abolished and its staff transferred to DEC. The role of the EPA Board was changed legislatively so that it no longer oversees the financial matters of the EPA or DEC.

However, the statutory body corporate of the EPA remains, providing the authority under which regulatory actions relating to environment protection legislation are taken. The EPA is listed under Schedule 2 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, and as a result DEC is required to submit a separate set of financial statements for the EPA.

Specifically, the accounts reflect the following:

- salaries of EPA Board members
- court case losses and recoveries
- a notional subsidy provided by DEC.

In the statement of financial position for the EPA, all assets and liabilities have nil balances, reflecting the fact that the Director General of DEC assumed control of all assets and liabilities of the former entity as of 24 September 2003.

The activities of the former EPA are now carried out by DEC staff, and are addressed in the DEC consolidated review of operations. For information on the activities of DEC under EPA powers, see:

- infringements and prosecutions (pages 17–18 and 149–54)
- the report of the Chairman of the EPA Board (page 3)
- curricula vitae of EPA Board members (pages 140–41).



GPO BOX 12 Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Environment Protection Authority:

- (a) presents fairly the Authority's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and its cash flows for the year ended on that date, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, but
- does not comply with section 418 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 (the Act) nor present fairly its financial performance for the year ended on that date, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

As detailed in Note 1(a), during the year, the Department of Environment and Conservation performed services for the Environment Protection Authority, without seeking reimbursement from the Authority. In my opinion, these services provided are a non-reciprocal transfer that provides economic benefits to the Authority. Under Australian Accounting Standard AAS 15 "Revenue", the Authority should have recognised the fair value of the notional revenues and related expenses. I have been unable to conduct audit procedures to quantify the notional revenues and expenses.

My opinion for the year ended 30 June 2004 was similarly qualified.

The Director-General's Role

The financial report is the responsibility of the Director-General of the Department of Environment of and Conservation. It consists of the statement of financial position, the statement of financial performance, the statement of cash flows and the accompanying notes.

The Auditor's Role and the Audit Scope

As required by the Act, I carried out an independent audit to enable me to express an opinion on the financial report. My audit provides reasonable assurance to Members of the New South Wales Partiament that the financial report is free of material misstatement.

My audit accorded with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards and statutory requirements, and 1:

- evaluated the accounting policies and significant accounting estimates used by the Director-General in preparing the financial report, and
- examined a sample of the evidence that supports the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial report is error free. The terms 'reasonable assurance' and 'material' recognise that an audit does not examine all evidence and transactions. However, the audit procedures used should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect decisions made by users of the financial report or indicate that the Director-General had not fulfilled her reporting obligations. My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Authority
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Audit Independence

The Audit Office comptles with all applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements. The Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

R J Senat Auditor-General

SYDNEY 30 November 2005

Environment Protection Authority

Financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Pursuant to section 41C (1b) and (1c) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Clause 11(a) and (b) of the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005, we state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and* Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005 and the Treasurer's Directions;
- (b) the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Authority; and
- (c) there are not any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

Member of EPA Board

November 2005

Member of EPA Board

November 2005

Start of audited financial statements

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Statement of financial performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004 \$'000
Revenue			
Sale of goods and services	2(a)	_	109
Investment income	2(b)	_	69
Retained fees and fines	2(c)	396	1,042
Grants and contributions	2(d)	125	1,018
Other revenue	2(e)	_	392
Government contributions	2(f)	_	21,350
Total revenue from ordinary activities		521	23,980
Expenditure			
Operating expenses			
Employee related	3(a)	230	17,033
Other operating expenses	3(b)	291	5,295
Maintenance	3(c)	_	296
Depreciation and amortisation	3(d)	-	1,104
Grants and subsidies	3(e)	_	725
Total expenditure from ordinary activities		521	24,453
Gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets		_	_
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	9	_	(473)
NON-OWNER TRANSACTION CHANGES IN EQUITY			
Net increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation reserve		_	-
TOTAL REVENUES, EXPENSES AND VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY		-	0
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS		-	(473)

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Statement of financial position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash		-	-
Receivables		_	_
Total current assets		0	0
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment			
Land and buildings	6(a)	-	-
Plant and equipment	6(b)	_	-
Total non-current assets		0	0
Total assets		0	0
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables		_	-
Provisions		_	_
Total current liabilities		0	0
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions		_	-
Total non-current liabilities		0	0
Total liabilities		0	0
Net assets		0	0
EQUITY			
Reserves		_	-
Accumulated funds		_	-
Total equity		0	0

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 30 June 2005

Notes	Actual 2005 \$'000	Actual 2004 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Employee related	-	(15,632)
Grants and subsidies	-	(725)
Other	-	(7,575)
Total payments	0	(23,932)
Receipts		
Sale of goods and services	-	109
Retained fees and fines	-	919
Investment income	-	236
Other	-	1,430
Government contributions	-	20,207
Total receipts	0	22,901
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES 9	0	(1,031)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems	-	_
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems	-	(62)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	0	(62)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from borrowings and advances	_	-
Repayments of borrowings and advances	_	-
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	0	0
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH	_	(1,093)
Opening cash and cash equivalents	_	8,490
Cash transferred in (out) as a result of administrative restructuring	-	(7,397)
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	0	0

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Public Sector Employment and Management (Environment and Conservation) Order 2003 made on on 24 September 2003 established a new Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). This was partly achieved by the abolition of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as a Department. As such, the EPA is no longer a separate department of

However, a factor that had to be considered in the creation of DEC was the need to retain an independent role for the statutory body corporate of the EPA in taking legal actions including the possible prosecution of state government authorities and for most serious Tier 1 prosecutions. As a result, the government decided to retain a separate legal entity that could take this legal action. It is important to recognise that the surviving statutory body known as the EPA with its Board is a legal mechanism only that operates within the confines of the environment protection legislation such as the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991 (POEA Act) in order to facilitate certain activities of DEC staff.

The EPA has no staff of its own, no material assets under its control and no material liabilities and will not receive a direct allocation from the Consolidated Fund to fund its operations. DEC has been providing services and resources free of charge for EPA's operations.

Transactions relating to the operations of the EPA, as represented in the financial statements are: the salaries of the board members, court case losses and award of costs to the EPA, and a notional subsidy provided by DEC to fund these activities.

The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No.2) 2003 omits section 16(b) of the POEA Act, which makes this clear when it states: "In view of the integration of the EPA with the new Department, it is no longer appropriate for the Board of the EPA to exercise the function currently set out in section 16(b) of the POEO Act ("to oversee the effective, efficient and economical management of the [EPA]"). Accordingly the proposed amendment repeals section 16(b)."

On the 5 December 2003, as proclaimed in the NSW Government Gazette, the EPA was added to Schedule 2 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983. This requires a separate set of financial statements for the EPA as part of the consolidated financial statements of DEC.

The EPA's financial statements for 2003-04 cover the full financial year reporting period, however, the financial data predominantly relates up to the period ending 23 September 2003 because assets, liabilities and all operational activities were assumed by DEC after this date.

(b) Basis of accounting

EPA financial statements are general purpose financial reports which have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with:

- applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)
- other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB)
- Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views
- the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and Regulations; and

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

In the absence of a specific accounting standard, other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB or UIG Consensus View, the hierarchy of other pronouncements as outlined in AAS6 "Accounting Policies" is considered.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

2. Revenues

Revenues		
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
(a) Sale of goods and services		
Sale of publications	_	1
Other	_	108
TOTAL	0	109
(b) Investment income		
Interest	_	69
	0	69
(c) Retained fees and fines		
Fees – licenses and permits	_	3
Court costs awarded from prosecutions	396	1,039
	396	1,042
(d) Grants and contributions		
Funding was provided by the Commonwealth and state governments togeth	ner with	
private and corporate sponsorships as follows (Note 5):		
Federal government		80
NSW state government (budget sector)	125	228
NSW state government (non-budget sector)	-	678
Other	_	32
	125	1,018
(e) Other revenue		
Cost recoveries	-	32
Other	-	360
	0	392
(f) Government contributions		
Recurrent appropriations*	_	19,331
Capital appropriations	_	15
Acceptance by Crown Entity of employee benefits liabilities:		
Superannuation	-	1,405
Long service leave	_	525
Payroll tax on superannuation	_	74
	0	21,350

^{*}Transfer payments noted in Note 5 are not included.

3. Expenses

Expenses	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Employee-related expenses		
Salary and wages (including recreation leave)	-	14,085
Superannuation	-	861
Long service leave	-	840
Workers' compensation insurance	-	89
Payroll tax and fringe benefits tax	_	888
Board member fees	230	270
	230	17,033
(b) Other operating expenses		
Auditor's remuneration (audit or review of the financial statements)	_	_
Operating lease rental expenses (minimum lease payments)	_	984
Insurance	_	222
Non-salary related staff expenses	_	324
Travel-related expenses	9	448
Minor plant, stores and supplies	_	342
Fees and services	281	839
Other occupancy costs	_	393
General administration	1	1,743
	291	5,295
(c) Maintenance		
Buildings maintenance	_	77
Maintenance of vessels	_	4
Maintenance contracts	_	215
	0	296
(d) Depreciation and amortisation expense		
Buildings	_	92
Computer equipment	_	408
General plant, equipment and fixtures	_	604
	0	1,104
(e) Grants and subsidies		
Local Air Improvement	_	67
National Environment Protection Council	_	143
Woodsmoke Reduction Program	_	167
Other	_	348
	0	725

Conditions on contributions 4.

Up to 23 September 2003 contributions were received for specific purposes, e.g. scientific research projects. The responsibility for the management and administration of these grants was transferred to DEC.

Transfer payments 5.

Zoological Parks Board	_	8,592
	0	8,592

Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment

Tion carrent assets property, plant and equipment	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
(a) Land and buildings		
Land and buildings at fair value	-	-
Less accumulated depreciation of buildings	-	-
	0	0
(b) Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment at fair value	-	-
Less accumulated depreciation of plant and equipment	-	_
	0	0
TOTAL Property, plant and equipment at fair value	0	0

Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below.

2005	Land and buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying amount at start of year	0	0	0
Additions	_	-	-
Disposals	_	-	-
Disposals through administrative restructures	_	_	-
Depreciation expense	_	_	-
Carrying amount at end of year	0	0	0
2004			
Carrying amount at start of year	21,290	14,256	35,546
Additions	15	45	60
Disposals	-	-	-
Disposals through administrative restructures	(21,123)	(13,380)	(34,503)
Depreciation expense	(182)	(921)	(1,103)
Carrying amount at end of year	0	0	0

Increase/decrease in net assets from administrative restructuring

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Assets and liabilities transferred to Department of Environment and Conservation were:		
Cash	-	7,397
Receivables	-	828
Other assets	-	407
Non-current assets Land and buildings Plant and equipment	_ _	21,123 13,380
Payables	-	(3,326)
Provisions	-	(7,244)
Net assets transferred in the administrative restructuring	0	32,565

Contingent liabilities

The Authority is:

currently subject to litigation including claims for court costs currently pursued through the NSW courts.

Other than the above, the Authority is not aware of any significant or material contingent liability in existence at 30 June 2005, or which has emerged subsequent to this date, which may materially impact on the financial position of the Authority as shown in the financial statements.

Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to operating surplus/deficit 9. from ordinary activites

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Net cash flows used on operating activities (see cash flow)	0	(1,031)
Depreciation	_	(1,104)
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	_	(821)
Increase/(decrease) in prepayments and other assets	_	407
Decrease/(increase) in provisions	_	(55)
Decrease/(increase) in creditors	_	2,131
Surplus/(deficit) for the year from ordinary activities	0	(473)

(see statement of financial performance)

10. Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) was created on 24 September 2003 to oversee EPA's management and operations. DEC has provided services and resources free of charge.

11. Adopting international financial reporting standards (IFRS)

The Authority will apply the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) from the reporting period beginning 1 July 2005.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is managing the transition on behalf of the Authority. It is expected that the adoption of IFRS will have no effect.

End of audited financial statements

Stormwater Trust



GPO BOX 12 Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT STORMWATER TRUST

To The Minister for the Environment

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Stormwater Trust:

- presents fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and
- complies with section 41B of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 (the Act).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The Trustees' Role

The financial report is the responsibility of the Trustee of the Stormwater Trust. It consists of the statement of financial position, the statement of financial performance, the statement of cash flows and the accompanying notes.

The Auditor's Role and the Audit Scope

As required by the Act, I carried out an independent audit to enable me to express an opinion on the financial report. My audit provides reasonable assurance that the financial report is free of material

My audit accorded with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards and statutory requirements, and 1:

- evaluated the accounting policies and significant accounting estimates used by the Trustees in preparing the financial report, and
- examined a sample of the evidence that supports the amounts and other disclosures in the

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial report is error free. The terms 'reasonable assurance' and 'material' recognise that an audit does not examine all evidence and transactions. However, the audit procedures used should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect decisions made by users of the financial report or indicate that Trustees had not fulfilled their reporting obligations.

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Stormwater Trust,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Audit Independence

The Audit Office complies with all applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements. The Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

al Audit Services

SYDNEY 11 November 2005

STORMWATER TRUST

Statement by members of the Trust

In accordance with a resolution of the Stormwater Trust, we state that:

- (a) The accompanying financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Stormwater Trust as at 30 June 2005 and transactions for the year then ended.
- (b) The statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2000 and the Treasurer's Directions.

Further, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

lisa Corbyn LISA CORBYN Chairperson

GARRY PAYNE Member

Start of audited financial statements

STORMWATER TRUST

Statement of financial performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

ı	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Revenue			
Interest	2(d)	151	286
Other revenue		85	61
TOTAL REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		236	347
Expenditure			
Employee-related expenses		_	613
Other operating expenses	3	1,092	854
Grants 2(c)	8 4	1,498	2,956
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		2,590	4,423
Operating deficit from ordinary activities		(2,354)	(4,076)
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS		(2,354)	(4,076)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STORMWATER TRUST

Statement of financial position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash assets	5	2,350	4,862
Receivables	6	59	140
TOTAL ASSETS		2,409	5,002
Current liabilities			
Payables	10	41	122
Provisions	11	-	88
Total current liabilities		41	210
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	11	-	70
Total non-current liabilities		-	70
TOTAL LIABILITIES		41	280
NET ASSETS		2,368	4,722
Equity			
Accumulated funds		2,368	4,722
TOTAL EQUITY	13	2,368	4,722

Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Payments			
Employee related		_	(634)
Grants		(1,498)	(2,988)
Other		(1,331)	(1,035)
Total payments		(2,829)	(4,657)
Receipts			
Interest received		218	429
Other		99	220
Total receipts		317	649
Government contribution		_	-
Net cash flows from operating activities	14	(2,512)	(4,008)
Net decrease in cash held		(2,512)	(4,008)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		4,862	8,870
Cash at the end of the reporting period	5	2,350	4,862

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STORMWATER TRUST

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1. Object of Trust

The objective of the Stormwater Trust (the 'Trust') is to encourage and support improved urban stormwater quality management practices in order to improve the condition of the State's waterways. This is to be achieved through a combination of public education, stormwater management planning, piloting innovation and undertaking remedial actions. The Trust's activities will promote partnerships between the private and public sectors in meeting this objective.

The Trust commenced operation in October 1997.

It was expected that the Trust would wind down its operations by the end of the 2004–05 financial year. However, some projects managed by the Trust were not completed within the anticipated time frames due to various unexpected delays such as variations and extensions to projects already under way. The Trust is now expected to finalise its operations by 30 June 2006.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) Reporting entity

The Stormwater Trust is a separate reporting entity.

(b) Basis of accounting

The Trust's financial statements are a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views, the requirements of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* and its regulations, and the Treasurer's Directions.

In the absence of a specific accounting standard, other authoritative pronouncement of the AASB or UIG Consensus View, the hierarchy of other pronouncements as outlined in AASB 1001 Accounting Policies is considered.

The accounts have been prepared on an accrual accounting basis, in accordance with the historical cost convention. All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year, except that the use of employment agency (temporary) staff is now classified as an operating expense rather than an employee-related expense.

(c) Grants

Grants approved but not paid for in the current financial year are treated as commitments against future funding provided by the NSW Government: refer to Note 12.

(d) Cash assets

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances within the Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average of NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11 am unofficial cash rate adjusted for a management fee to Treasury. The average interest rate during the year was 4.33% and the interest rate at the end the year was 4.49% (4.25% in 2004).

(e) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when the Trust has control of the goods or right to receive; it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Trust; and the amount of revenue can be reliably measured. All of the Trust's revenue arises from its operating activities. When the unused part of a grant is returned to the Trust, it is recognised as other revenue.

(f) Salaries and wages, annual leave and on-costs

In 2004, liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits) and annual leave were recognised and measured in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date at nominal amounts based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. In 2005 there is no liability for salaries and wages as the Trust does not employ any staff.

(g) Long service leave and superannuation

Long service leave is measured using the present value method for all employees with five or more years of service. In 2004, the Trust's staff superannuation and long service leave was paid by DEC and the expense has been recognised in the statement of financial performance for the financial year together with a corresponding amount in revenue.

3.	Other operating expenses	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
	Fees for services rendered	955	824
	Audit fees	8	6
	Other operating expenses	129	24
	Total	1,092	854
4.	Grants		
	The following grants were paid during the financial year:		
	Grants to councils	1,378	2,931
	Other	120	25
	Total	1,498	2,956
5.	Cash assets		
	Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
	Cash assets	2,350	4,862
		2,350	4,862

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Debtors	1	_
Prepayments	_	2
GST receivable	(1)	12
Interest receivable	59	126
	59	140

Assistance provided by other organisations

The maintenance of the Trust's accounting records and provision of other administrative services is provided by DEC.

8. **Capital commitments**

There were no capital commitments at 30 June 2005 (nil in 2004).

9. Bank overdraft

Closing equity

The Trust does not have any bank overdraft facility.

10. Payables

Liabilities recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced, are treated as either trade creditors, where the creditor is known with certainty, or as accrued expenses. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01.

If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received after delivery of the goods or services concerned. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. No such interest was awarded during the period.

		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
	Trade payables	3	52
	Accrued expenses	38	70
		41	122
11.	Provisions		
	Annual leave	_	61
	Long service leave	_	97
		-	158
	Aggregate employee provisions		
	Provisions – current	_	88
	Provisions – non-current	_	70
		_	158
12.	Operating expenditure commitments		
	Trust commitments for the funding of stormwater initiatives are:		
	Not later than one year	488	2,177
		488	2,177
13.	Changes in equity		
	Opening equity Operating deficit	4,722 (2,354)	8,798 (4,076)
	Operating deficit	(2,334)	(4,070)

2,368

4,722

14. Reconciliation of net cash flows from operating activities to operating surplus/(deficit) from ordinary activities

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Operating deficit from ordinary activities	(2,354)	(4,076)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(81)	(54)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(158)	(21)
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	81	143
Net cash flow used in operating activities	(2,512)	(4,008)

15. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2005 (nil in 2004).

16. Adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The Trust will apply the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) from 2005–06.

The transition is being managed by DEC by allocating internal resources and/or engaging consultants (where required) to analyse the pending standards and Urgent Issues Group Abstracts to identify key areas regarding policies, procedures, systems and financial impacts affected by the transition.

As a result of this exercise, the Trust has taken the following steps to manage the transition to the new standards:

- DEC's AEIFRS Project Steering Committee, headed by the Executive Director, Corporate Services (DEC) is overseeing the transition. The Project Working Group is responsible for the project, and reports regularly to the committee on progress against the plan.
- The following phases that need to be undertaken have been identified:
 - Phase 1 Establish a project team to implement the AEIFRS
 - Phase 2 Identify key areas of impact on accounting and reporting, operational issues, systems, controls and policies including implementation timetable
 - Phase 3 Develop any necessary systems, policies and procedures and training requirements
 - Phase 4 Implement the AEIFRS and carry out a post-implementation review.
- To date, the following phases have been or are being implemented:
 - \blacksquare Phase 1 A project team has been established and meets regularly.
 - Phase 2 This phase is completed. However, it is subject to Treasury's mandated options, which must be adopted by the Trust.
 - Phase 3 Current impact as a result of AEIFRS is very minor. However, if ED 125 is mandated by Treasury, major changes relating to policy, procedures and systems need to be undertaken in a short period of time, to ensure grants are treated correctly.

The Trust has determined that there will be no significant impact arising from the introduction of AEIFRS with the exception of the following:

Grant recognition for not-for profit entities

The Trust will apply the requirements in AASB 1004 Contributions regarding contributions of assets (including grants) and forgiveness of liabilities. There are no differences in the recognition requirements between the new AASB 1004 and the current AASB 1004. However, the new AASB 1004 may be amended by proposals in Exposure Draft (ED) 125 Financial Reporting by Local Governments. If the ED 125 approach is applied, revenue and/or expense recognition will not occur until the Trust supplies the related goods and services (where grants are in-substance agreements for the provision of goods and services) or until conditions are satisfied. ED 125 may therefore delay revenue and/or expense recognition compared with AASB 1004, where grants are recognised when controlled. However, at this stage, the timing and dollar impact of these amendments are uncertain.

End of audited financial statements



GPO BOX 17 Sydney NSW 2001

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

WASTE FUND

To The Minister for the Environment

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Waste Fund:

- presents fairly the Waste Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date, in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and
- complies with section 41B of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 (the Act).

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The Minister's Role

The financial report is the responsibility of the Minister for the Environment, it consists of the statement of financial position, the statement of financial performance, the statement of cash flows and the accompanying notes.

The Auditor's Role and the Audit Scope

As required by the Act, I carried out an independent audit to enable me to express an opinion on the financial report. My audit provides reasonable assurance that the financial report is free of material

My audit accorded with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards and statutory requirements, and it

- evaluated the accounting policies and significant accounting estimates used by the Director-General of the Department of Environment and Conservation in preparing the financial report,
- examined a sample of the evidence that supports the amounts and other disclosures in the

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial report is error free. The terms 'reasonable assurance' and 'material' recognise that an audit does not examine all evidence and transactions. However, the audit procedures used should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect decisions made by users of the financial report or indicate that the Minister for the Environment had not fulfilled his reporting obligations.

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Fund,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically, or about the effectiveness of its internal controls.

Audit Independence

The Audit Office complies with all applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements. The Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

R J Sendt Auditor General

SYDNEY 11 November 2005

Statement by the Minister for the Environment

Pursuant to section 41C(1C) of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I state that:

- (a) the accompanying financial statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position of the Waste Fund as at 30 June 2005 and transactions for the year then ended
- (b) the statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2000 and the Treasurer's Directions.

Further, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

BOB DEBUS MP

Minister for the Environment

WASTE FUND

Statement of financial performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Revenue			
Interest income	4(a)	2,211	2,776
Grants received	4(b)	1,480	_
Other		_	11
		3,691	2,787
Expenditure			
Employee-related expenses	3(a)	_	52
Other operating expenses	3(b)	62	14
Grants paid	3(c)	21,809	15,571
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES		21,871	15,637
Operating (loss) surplus from ordinary activities		(18,180)	(12,850)
TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS AS OWNERS		(18,180)	(12,850)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WASTE FUND

Statement of financial position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2005

N	lotes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash	5(a)	28,763	47,021
Receivables and other assets	6	86	12
TOTAL ASSETS		28,849	47,033
Current liabilities			
Payables	7	11	13
Provisions	8	_	2
TOTAL LIABILITIES		11	15
NET ASSETS		28,838	47,018
Equity			
Retained surplus		28,838	47,018
TOTAL EQUITY	13	28,838	47,018

WASTE FUND

Statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Payments		
Employee related	_	(46)
Grants	(21,809)	(15,571)
Other	(140)	(29)
Total payments	(21,949)	(15,646)
Receipts		
Interest received	2,211	2,773
Grants received	1,480	-
Other	_	24
Total receipts	3,691	2,797
Government contribution	_	_
Net cash flow (used in)/from operating activities 5(b)	(18,258)	(12,849)
Net increase in cash (utilised)/held	(18,258)	(12,849)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period	47,021	59,870
Cash at the end of the reporting period 5(a)	28,763	47,021

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WASTE FUND

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Object of Fund

The Waste Fund (the 'Fund') was established under section 19 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001.

The object of the Fund is to receive, accumulate and disburse all monies associated with the NSW Government's waste reduction and management program. Unspent monies can remain in the Fund and be carried forward. Treasury's circular TC01/07 gives the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) the authority to invest these unspent monies. DEC's investment powers have been approved by the Treasurer to that effect.

The Fund was abolished with the passage of the Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Act 2005 which was assented to on 1 July 2005. Accordingly, this is the final set of accounts for the Fund. All the Fund's assets and liabilities as disclosed in these financial statements will be assumed by the Environmental Trust as at the date of abolition.

2. Basis of accounting

(a) Summary of significant accounting policies

The Fund's financial statements are a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views, the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and its Regulations and the Treasurer's Directions.

Where there are inconsistencies between the above requirements, the legislative provisions have prevailed.

In the absence of a specific accounting standard, other authoritative pronouncement of the AASB or UIG Consensus View, the hierarchy of other pronouncements as outlined in AAS6 Accounting Policies is considered.

The accounts have been prepared on an accrual accounting basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention. All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(b) Contributions

Income received by the Fund is provided via specific appropriations received by DEC for the NSW Government's Waste Program.

(c) Cash assets

Cash assets comprise cash on hand and bank balances within the Treasury Banking System. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11 am unofficial cash rate adjusted for a management fee to Treasury. The average interest rate during the year was 4.33% and the interest at the end of the year was 4.49% (4.25% in 2004).

(d) Hour Glass Cash Facility Trust

The Fund's investment is represented by a number of units of a managed investment pool, with each particular pool having different investment horizons and being comprised of a mix of asset classes appropriate to that investment horizon. TCorp appoints and monitors fund managers and establishes and monitors the application of appropriate investment quidelines.

Investments at balance date are accounted for at market value provided by TCorp. These investments can be redeemed at any time and are therefore classified as current assets.

Any changes to the value of investments are accounted for as interest income after adjusting the movements of deposits and withdrawals.

The value that best represents the maximum credit risk exposure is the net fair value. The value of the above investments represents the Fund's share of the value of the underlying assets of the facility and those assets are stated at net fair value.

(e) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised when the Fund has control of the goods or right to receive; it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Fund; and the amount of revenue can be reliably measured. All of the Fund's revenue arises from its operating activities and DEC contributions. When the unused part of a grant is returned to the Fund, it is recognised as other revenue.

(f) Grants

3.

Grants approved but not paid for in the current financial year are treated as commitments: refer to Note 12.

(g) Salaries and wages, annual leave and on-costs

In 2004, liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits) and annual leave were recognised and measured in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date at nominal amounts based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

In 2005, there is no liability for salaries and wages as the Fund does not employ any staff.

(h) Long service leave and superannuation

Long service leave is measured using the present value method for all employees with five or more years of service.

In 2004, the Fund staff's superannuation and long service leave was paid by DEC and the expense has been recognised in the statement of financial performance for the financial year together with a corresponding amount in revenue.

Expenses	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
(a) Employee-related expenses		
Salaries and wages	_	41
Long service leave	_	6
Superannuation	-	5
	-	52
(b) Other operating expenses		
Audit fees	10	10
Fees	52	_
Travel and other	0	4
	62	14

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
(c) Grants		
The following grants have been paid during the financial year:		
Return Unwanted Medicines	_	32
Community Waste Grants	_	120
Grants to other budget sector agencies	818	52
Department of Environment and Conservation	20,991	15,333
Miscellaneous grants	-	34
	21,809	15,571

4. Revenue

(a) Interest income		
Interest on bank account	58	11
Interest on cash facility at TCorp	2,153	2,765
	2,211	2,776
(b) Grants received		
NSW Government	1,480	-
	1,480	-

Cash and cash flows

(a) Cash

Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash at bank	30	2,525
Cash facility at TCorp	28,733	44,496
	28,763	47,021
(b) Reconciliation of net cash flow provided by operating activities to operating surplus from ordinary activities		
Operating (loss)/surplus from ordinary activities	(18,180)	(12,850)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(2)	4
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(2)	0
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(74)	(3)
Net cash flow (used in)/from operating activities	(18,258)	(12,849)

Receivables and other assets

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectability of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is raised when some doubt as to collection exists. The credit risk is the carrying amount (net of any provision for doubtful debts). No interest is earned on trade debtors. The carrying amount approximates net fair value.

Interest receivable	U	5
Other	80	7
	86	12

Payables

Liabilities recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced, are treated as either trade creditors where the creditor is known with certainty or accrued expenses. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01.

If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received after delivery of the goods or services concerned. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment. No such interest was awarded during the year.

Accrued expenses	11	10
Other	_	3
	11	13

		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
3.	Provisions		
	Recreation leave	-	2
		_	2
	Aggregate employee provisions		
	Provisions – current	-	2
		-	2

9. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 30 June 2005 (nil in 2004).

10. Bank overdraft

The Fund does not have any bank overdraft facility.

11. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2005 (nil in 2004).

12. Operating expenditure commitments

The Fund's commitments totalling approximately 19.0 million (2004 – 11.7 million) for the funding of waste initiatives are proposed to be financed from future funding provided by the NSW Government. The commitments are as follows:

Not later than one year		
Department of Environment and Conservation	18,400	7,813
Other expenditure commitments	-	166
	18,400	7,979
Later than one year but not later than five years		
Waste reduction grants	_	134
Department of Environment and Conservation	600	3,626
	600	3,760
Changes in equity		
Opening equity	47,018	59,868
Operating (deficit) surplus	(18,180)	(12,850)
Closing equity	28,838	47,018

14. Assistance provided by other organisations free of charge

The maintenance of the Fund's accounting records and provision of other administrative services is provided by DEC. A fee of \$52,000 was paid to DEC in 2005 (nil in 2004).

End of audited financial statements

13.



Appendices

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Statement of responsibility

As Director General, I have worked with other Executive members, principal officers and managers with responsibility for particular internal control processes to use these processes to provide reasonable assurance that the Department is achieving its objectives and using its resources efficiently. These processes include reporting to me and the Executive on aspects of organisational performance, controls on how expenditure and staff resources are managed, contracting out various independent external assessments of aspects of our work, and managing a service of internal audits that focus on both operational and financial risk. This includes participating in an independently chaired statutory audit and compliance committee for the National Parks and Wildlife Service that reports to the Minister. For details of internal audits and external assessments, see page 72.

To the best of my knowledge, all these control processes have operated satisfactorily during the reporting year.

LISA CORBYN
Director General

2. Performance of senior staff

Chief Executive

Name: Ms Lisa Corbyn
Position title: Director General

Period: 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

SES level: 8

Remuneration: \$299,442

During the year Ms Corbyn provided strong leadership, team building and sound management for the Department of Environment and Conservation. This year presented significant challenges in delivering substantial budget savings across DEC while still progressing challenging legislative and policy reforms, delivering on government commitments and building new partnerships for service delivery.

Results

- Reforms to the Threatened Species and Environmental Trust legislation passed and the Protection of the Environment Operations Bill tabled in Parliament for consultation
- Action for Air reviewed including successful staging of the Clean Air Forum in November 2004
- National chemicals management framework progressed with delivery of two information modules and National Packaging Covenant revamped
- Culture and Heritage Action Plan as part of Two Ways Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy progressed
- Worked collaboratively with other agencies including active participation in CEO Clusters to progress national resources management and environment reforms and provide support for catchment management authorities, the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Metropolitan Water Plan education campaign delivered on time
- DEC corporate services highly benchmarked and corporate governance structure established and well managed
- DEC budget savings achieved.

BOB DEBUS

Minister for the Environment

Senior Executive Service officers

Name: Dr Tony Fleming

Position title: Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife

Division

Period: 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

SES level: 6
Remuneration: \$257,000

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Dr Fleming's performance throughout 2004–05. Dr Fleming has achieved the performance criteria contained in his revised performance agreement. He has developed new strategic frameworks for building and managing the protected area system in the Parks and Wildlife Division throughout the restructure process. As head of the National Parks and Wildlife Service within DEC, he has demonstrated strong commitment to building the protected area system and excellence in park management.

Results

- Progressed negotiations with Treasury on the framework for funding Protected Areas
- Progressed the Protected Areas Future Directions program
- Published the new comprehensive approach to State of the Parks reporting, a core element in promoting excellence in park management
- Actively participated as the DEC member of the Marine Parks Authority
- Managed and participated on the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and built a positive relationship with the extensive network of regional advisory committees
- Developed the Living Parks sustainable visitation strategy
- Implemented strong occupational health and safety programs for Parks and Wildlife Division and achieved positive audit results
- Ensured the division undertook an active Fire Management approach including hazard reduction and trail maintenance programs, and staff training and communications.

Name: Mr Simon AY Smith

Position title: Deputy Director General, Environment

Protection and Regulation Division

Period: 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

SES level: 6 Remuneration: \$239,200

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Mr Smith's performance through 2004–05. Mr Smith has achieved the performance criteria contained in his performance agreement. He has shown strong leadership and has brought forward new ideas and innovative approaches to develop DEC's regulatory and environment protection systems. He is a good team builder, has strengthened connections between DEC and stakeholders, and helped maintain DEC's focus on timely implementation of reform.

Results

- Supported the Minister in completing complex and significant reform of threatened species legislation and prepared DEC for implementation across biodiversity certification, enforcement, recovery prioritisation and biodiversity banking
- Supported the Minister in finalising an exposure draft bill for reform of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Completed four green offsets projects to address salinity and nutrient pollution and demonstrate how the new approach can now be applied more widely
- Completed new systems to regulate 'residue' waste to protect agricultural land from potentially hazardous industrial waste
- Established a new centralised forestry team to combine environment protection and threatened species regulation which has increased successful investigations and prosecutions
- Developed a cohesive understanding of credible regulation across DEC's diverse environment protection portfolio, and increased enforcement results in protection of threatened species and Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Incorporated Aboriginal cultural heritage staff in the Environment Protection and Regulation Division and commenced renewal of the regulatory systems
- Completed new assessment guidelines for alternative fuels which provide certainty for beneficial energy-from-waste proposals as well as a strong regulatory framework to prevent incineration or combustion of materials that pose unacceptable environmental risk
- Managed the successful restructure of Environment Protection and Regulation Division and delivery of significant cost savings.

Name: Mr Jim Booth

Position title: Executive Director, Policy and Science

Division

Period: 1 July 2004–30 June 2005

SES level: 5 Remuneration: \$198,151

The Director General has expressed satisfaction with Mr Booth's performance through 2004–05. Mr Booth has achieved the performance criteria contained in his performance agreement. He has delivered on a broad reform agenda, particularly in natural resources management, conservation, planning and energy/greenhouse. He has consolidated the establishment of the Policy and Science Division, and demonstrated a strong commitment to linking with other divisions and agencies.

Results

- Actively participated on the Commonwealth–State Joint Steering Committee on the Natural Heritage Trust/National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality, and the Policy and Programs Committee of the Natural Resources Management Ministerial Council
- Chaired the DEC Natural Resources subcommittee of the Executive to manage effectively DEC's interactions with natural resources management reforms
- Provided training for local government following publication of the Noise Guide for Local Government

- Successfully staged the Clean Air Forum, with a particular emphasis on climate change.
- Finalised development of a NSW Odour Mitigation Policy
- Led the development of a revised NSW Biodiversity Strategy, and the Threatened Species Conservation Act regulations
- Led the DEC policy input into the Native Vegetation Act reforms, and the delivery of the biometric and threatened species components of the PVP Developer.
- Provided DEC input into the State's draft Energy Policy, Greenhouse Strategy, Sydney Metropolitan Strategy and Metropolitan Water Strategy, Natural Resources Policy and the NRC's Standards and Targets.

3. Principal officers

Our executive, comprising 13 principal officers, had the following members on 30 June 2005:

Director General

Ms Lisa Corbyn, BA, MPA

Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division

Mr Simon Smith, BA (Hons)

Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife DivisionDr Tony Fleming, BSc (Hons), PhD (Forestry)

Executive Director, Botanic Gardens Trust Dr Tim Entwisle, BSc, PhD (Botany)

Executive Director, Corporate Services DivisionMr Arthur Diakos, BBus, FCPA

Executive Director, Cultural Heritage DivisionMr Jason Ardler, BEc

Executive Director, Legal Services

Ms Donna Campbell, LLB

Executive Director, Strategy, Communication and Governance Division

Ms Sally Barnes, BA, DipEd, GradDip Information Sciences (Teacher Librarianship)

Executive Director Operations, Environment Protection and Regulation Division

Mr Joe Woodward, BSc, ME (Hons)

Executive Director, Policy and Science Division Mr Jim Booth, BAgSc, BSc (Hons)

Executive Director, Sustainability Programs Division Mr Tim Rogers, BEc, MAd

Director Western, Parks and Wildlife DivisionMr Terry Korn, HDA, BA, MappSc

Executive Officer

Dr Berenice Carrington, PhD (History, Anthropology and Women's Studies)

4. EPA Board members' curricula vitae

Chairman and member with expertise in environment protection policy

Mr David Harley, AM (attended 8 meetings)

A former chair of the Sydney Water Board, Mr David Harley was a member of the Sydney Water Inquiry and the NSW Government's Waterways Advisory Panel, and has held positions in international banking, trade and commerce.

Deputy Chairman and member with experience in, or knowledge of, environmental aspects of agriculture, industry or commerce

Mr Tony Wright, Dip Tech, MBA (attended 11 meetings)

Mr Tony Wright is Managing Director of Wright Corporate Strategy Pty Ltd and Chair of the State Water Corporation and Biotrack Australia Pty Ltd. He also chairs the State of the Environment Advisory Council of NSW and the Extended Producer Responsibility Expert Reference Group. He is a past Chair of Environment Business Australia and a past Director of the CRC for Waste Management and Pollution Control.

Director General, Department of Environment and Conservation

Ms Lisa Corbyn, BA, MPA, FIPAA (attended 11 meetings)

Ms Lisa Corbyn was appointed Director General of the Department of Environment and Conservation when it was formed in September 2003. She previously held the position of Director General of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) from November 2000 to September 2003. She is also the Chief Executive Office of the Sydney Catchment Authority, a Commissioner of the Murray—Darling Basin Commission and a member of the Council on the Cost of Government.

Ms Corbyn has had a varied career as a senior manager in both the public and private sectors in Australia where she has worked for the Ministry of the Environment, AWA Limited, the Sydney Water Board and the Department of Environment and Planning. Prior to moving to Australia, Ms Corbyn worked for over 10 years for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, primarily in water programs.

Members with experience in, or knowledge of, nature conservation or environment protection

Dr Judy Henderson, AO, MBBS (FRACP) (attended 10 meetings)

Dr Henderson is Chair of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Chair of the Amsterdam-based Global Reporting Initiative, Chair of the Centre for Australian Ethical Research and a former Commissioner on the World Commission on Dams. She is the previous Chair of Oxfam International and a former member of the Board of Greenpeace International.

Mr Peter Prineas, BA, LLB (attended 11 meetings)

Working with community environmental organisations has given Mr Peter Prineas wide experience in environmental policy. He has served as Chairperson of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Director of the National Parks Association of NSW. He has also contributed to government bodies including the Licence Regulator for urban water utilities and the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory

Member with experience in, or knowledge of, environmental aspects of agriculture, industry or commerce

Dr John Keniry AM, BSc (Hons), PhD (attended 9

Dr John Keniry chairs several bodies, including Ridley Corporation Ltd, and the Scientific Advisory Council to the NSW Minister for Primary Industries. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. He is Past Chairman of the Livestock Export Review, the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals and Unisearch Ltd.

Member with experience in environmental science

Mr Robert Junor, HDA, BA (attended 9 meetings)

Mr Robert Junor is a former Commissioner and Chief Soil Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service of NSW. Mr Junor headed the Community Advisory Committee of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission from 1992 to 1995. He is a natural resources management consultant, undertaking strategic planning, environmental audits and land management consultancies. He is also the Interim Chair of the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.

Member with expertise in regional environmental issues

Dr Colleen Watts, OAM, BScAgr (Hons), M Phil, PhD (attended 10 meetings)

Dr Colleen Watts has qualifications in Agricultural Science and Limnology, is a beef producer on the Central Tablelands of NSW and manager of a medical practice. Dr Watts has been actively involved in regional environmental work for many years, mainly through Landcare and the Carcoar Dam Catchment Management Committee. She is currently a national councillor on the Australian Conservation Foundation, the secretary of the Lachlan Macquarie Landcare Executive Committee and a member of the Central Tablelands Landcare Management Committee.

Member with expertise in environmental law and an academic employed in a NSW tertiary institution

Professor Gerry Bates, LLB (Hons), PhD (Birm) (attended 11 meetings)

Dr Gerry Bates teaches various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in environmental law at a number of universities, including the Australian Centre for Environmental Law, University of Sydney; the Australian National University, Canberra; and the University of New South Wales. He has

published extensively on environmental law, including the standard text Environmental Law in Australia. Dr Bates was formerly leader of the Greens in the Tasmanian State Parliament.

Member with expertise in local government matters

Emeritus Mayor Peter Woods, OAM, JP, BA, Mlitt, **CertCommMed, FAICD, MACE** (attended 11 meetings)

Mr Peter Woods was President of the Local Government Association of NSW from 1990 to 2002. A long-term Mayor of Concord until December 2000, he was subsequently elected to the new City of Canada Bay Council before retiring in March

Mr Woods is Chairperson of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Director of Chifley Financial Services, Local Government Financial Services and Futureplus Financial Services. He was also President of the Australian Local Government Association, a member of COAG and a member of several Ministerial Councils.

5. Significant statutory bodies and advisory committees

Significant committees advising DEC

Animal Ethics Committee

Carl Solomon, DEC (Chair)

Veterinarians

Robert Johnson

Leslie Reddacliff, Department of Primary Industries

Researchers

Dan Lunney, DEC Andrew Claridge, DEC

Welfare

Chris Coddington, RSPCA Tony Gregory

Sue Patchett, RSPCA

Independents

David Hodgkinson

Karen Lambert

Lorna Kelly

Linda Vidler

Yvonne Stewart

Mark Johnston, DEC

Dulcie Nicholls

James Law

Jan Barham

Beachwatch Advisory Committee

Paul Byleveld, NSW Health

Bernard Carlon, Director Business and Community Programs, DEC (Chair)

Dr Rex Campbell, Surfrider Foundation

Graham Cassidy, Australian Professional Surfers Association

David Harrison, Australian Yachting Federation

Councillor Patricia Harvey, Sydney Coastal Councils

Colin Huntingdon, Total Catchment Management

Colin Lennox, Oz Green (representing the Nature Conservation Council of NSW)

Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel

In accordance with the NSW Kangaroo Management Program 2002–06, a Kangaroo Management Advisory Panel was formed in late 2004 to provide advice to the Director General on implementation of the program. This panel replaced the Kangaroo Management Advisory Committee which was established under the NSW Kangaroo Management Program 1998–2002 and met for the last time in November 2003. The membership and terms of reference for the new panel ensure that DEC receives advice from all major stakeholders. Member organisations have been appointed for a three-year term.

Aboriginal representative

Les Trindall, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Animal welfare and conservation groups

Phillip Cameron, Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society Inc.

Steve Coleman, NSW RSPCA

Dr Tony English, Australian Veterinary Association

Vacant, Humane Society International

Kangaroo industry representatives

Michael Cavanagh, Kangaroo Industries Association of Australia

Mike Mulligan, Australian Game Meat Producers Association

Vacant, Professional Kangaroo Cullers Association

Landholders

Rosemary Barnes, NSW Farmers' Association
Sandy Bright, Pastoralists Association of West Darling
Marie Russell, Rural Lands Protection Board

Government agencies

Joshua Gilroy, DEC (Chair)

Nicole Payne, DEC

Geoff Woods, NSW Department of Primary Industries

Load-based Licensing Technical Review Panel

DEC representatives

Mark Gifford, Director Reform and Compliance (Chair)

Dr Keith Osborne, Environmental Science

DEC Director General's nominee (independent)

Dr John Carras, CSIRO Energy Technology

Industry representatives

Dr Richard Benson, Qenos Pty Ltd

Peter Stephenson, Stephenson Environmental Management Australia

Environment groups representative

Professor Donald White, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Local government representative

Vacant

Mount Grenfell Historic Site Board of Management

Peter Dykes

Keith Hampton

Peter Harris

Faye Johnston

Richard Kennedy

Stacey Meredith

Beverley Moore

Elaine Ohlsen

Isabel Pretty Neville Strachan

Phillip Sullivan (Chair)

Dennis Williams

Steve Wolter

Richard Anderson

Badger Bates

William Bates

Norma Dutton

Walter Dutton

Doris Hunter

Elizabeth Hunter

Sky Kidd

Terry Korn

Dulcie O'Donnell

Kim O'Donnell (Chair)

Maureen O'Donnell

Anthony Pease

National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

Dr Geoff Cary, Australian National University

Christine Ferguson, NSW Aboriginal Land Council

Dr Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division. DEC

Councillor Robert Gledhill, Local Government and Shires Associations

Dr Ronnie Harding, University of NSW

Dr Bruce Hayllar, University of Technology Sydney

Dr David Hodgkinson, NSW Farmers' Association

Diana Hoffman, NPW Advisory Committee, Western (Chair)

Jane Judd, Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Genia McCaffery, Local Government and Shires Associations

Ron Mathews, 4 Wheel Drive Clubs of NSW

Dr George McKay, NPW Advisory Committee, Northern (Deputy Chair)

Anne Reeves, National Parks Association of NSW

Jean Rice, Australian International Council on Monuments and Sites

Wendy Rose, NPW Advisory Committee, Southern (retired 30 June 2005)

John Verhoeven, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources

Dr Kent Williams, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

National Parks and Wildlife Regional Advisory Committees

National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Committees are constituted by the Minister for the Environment to make recommendations to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Director General or the appropriate regional manager on the measures to improve the care, control and management of those DEC-managed parks or reserves for which they are appointed.

The advisory committees were reconstituted in 2004, with new committees appointed by the Minister from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2008.

Blue Mountains Region

Warwick Armstrong Tracey Austin Joseph Banffy Elizabeth Black Nicola Bowskill Robyn Bushell Roy Cameron Grahame Douglas Helen Drewe Andy Macqueen (Chair) Fiona Meller Ngulla Murrandah Beth Rushton Bill Shields Chris Tobin Jack Tolhurst Ian Tucker

Central Coast Hunter Range Region

Kim Baillie
Daryl Bower (Chair)
Jodi Cameron
Shane Geerin
Narelle Howard
Nick Jacomas
Dellas Johnson
Robert Kelly
Desmond Mills
Christine O'Brien
Andrew Paul
Stephen Talbot
Ian Webb
Trevor Woolley

Far South Coast Region

Michael Darcy Chris Kowal Catherine Lawler Mitchell Litchfield Shane McAlister Fiona McCrossin Denise Robin Kay Rogers Wendy Rose Robert Ross (Chair) David Shaw Alexander Sherriff Frank Slabb Yvonne Thomson Josie Walcott David Wauchope Douglas Willcoxson

Far West Region

Michael Anderson Peter Beven Beryl Carmichael David Croft Geoffrey Davis James Graham Diana Hoffman (Chair) Vicki Jackson Dick Kelly Thomas Kennedy Dorothy Kiel Michael McCulkin Maureen O'Donnell Peter Sullivan Louise Turner Arthur Vann Brian Wakefield

Hartley Historic Site

Krystina Campbell Roger Clarke Margaret Combs Helen Dreves Clare Evans Ross Fragar Annette Gilbev Cheryl Kenny Marian Kinnear John Luchetti Gerard Martin Malcolm McDonald Robert Morris (Chair) Ngulla Murrandah David Peters Chris Tobin

Hunter Region

Leonard Anderson
John Asquith
Helen Brown (Chair)
Viola Brown
John Clarke
Trevor Connell
Michael Elfick
Joachim Engel
Margaret Francis
Sonia Hornery
Suzanne Landers
George McKay
Christine Prietto
Gerard Tuckerman

Mid North Coast Region

Megan Benson Leonard Blacklow John Clark Janet Cohen Helen Hannah Franklin Harrison (Chair) Philip Holberton Margaret Howard Max Ingram Isabelle Lee Gary Morris Cameron Price Barry Ramke Steve Read Leslie Ridgeway Clark Valler

North Coast Region

Martyn Blake Barbara Fahey Robin Heath Marie Howlett Kay Jeffery Brad Lewis Peter Morgan Judith Mortlock Paul Parramore Warwick Roche Peter Smith James Tedder Bridget Walker

Northern Plains Region

Meryl Dillon
Sandy Findlay
Jane Harding
Margaret Harris
Gillian Hogendyk
Janis Hosking
Jane Judd (Chair)
Christopher Lord
Geoffrey Mitchell
Ken Rogers
Maureen Sulter
David Toynton
Joan Treweeke
Alfred Trindall
John Whitehead

Northern Rivers Region

Harry Boyd James Brideson Rod Caldicott David Cook Raylee Delaney Richard Gates (Chair) Anthony Gleeson Earle Grundy Sarah Harris Jennifer Hoff Douglas Jardine Sharon McGrigor Charles Moran (resigned) Hugh Nicholson Jeanette Olley Max Willoughby

Northern Tablelands Region

Clive Ahoy
Kate Boyd
Sandy Butler
Lynne Hosking
Suzanne Hudson
John MacFarlane
Steve Mepham
Peter Metcalfe
Nicholas Reid (Chair)
Dianne Roberts
Timothy Scrace
Allen Strudwick
John Taylor

Snowy Mountains Region

Kurt Cremer (deceased)
Ewan Diver
Gaynor Epstein
John Hood
Jimmy James (deceased)
Noreen Pendergast
Anthony Seldon
Rae Solomon-Stewart
Diane Thompson
Jan Walker
Geoffrey Waters (Chair)
Iris White

South Coast Region

William Barnetson William Bean Helen Bell Frances Bray Noel Butler Karen Elton Courtney Fink Jack Hampton John Kina Donald Kowalczyk Kevin Mills (Chair) Robert Pallin David Phelps **David Tranter** Vic Walker Joyce Wheatley

South West Slopes Region

Janet Anderson Robyn Barker Coral Bulger David Campbell Timothy Cathles Adrian Davey Paul Davies (Chair) Rachael Eggins Ramsay Freeman Susan Moore Kenneth Prendergast Gerry Proft Roger Quarterman Maurice Sexton Peter Southwell Jacqueline Stol Mary Williams

Sydney Region

Simon Balderstone Penny Carl-Nelson Kevin Crameri Barbara de Rome **Brigid Dowsett** Geoff Gougeon Colin Hesse Garry McIlwaine (Chair) Zenon Michniewicz Susan Moylan-Coombs **Gary Peters** Barbara Shaffer Omar Seychell Tabatha Timbery-Cann Sally Whitelaw Allan Young

Sydney North Region

Angelo Baldo
Trevor Brown
Diane Campbell
Paul Coe
Dave Ella
Patricia Giles (Chair)
Kirsten Hartshorne
Penny Holloway
Anntonette Joseph
Doug MacDonald
Robert Salt
Grant Stone
David Tribe

Sydney South Region

Sheelah Boleyn (Chair) Glenda Chalker Joanne Connolly Phillip Costa Sharyn Cullis Joanne Daly Brian Everingham Nicholas Gill Anthony Kent Martyn Kiellor Linda Lacey Philip Sansom Robert Spenser Peter Stitt Miriam Verbeek Shavne Williams Mark Wood

Upper Darling Region

Michael Brown Sally Bryant Catherine Cooper Michael Davis Douglas Egan Kiersten Griffiths Cecily Hampton Philip Hams Philip Johnston Karen Kneipp Wayne Leigh Robyn Martin Steve Meredith Sharron Ohlsen Isabell Pretty Marie Russell (Chair)

DEC membership of other significant statutory bodies

Jason Ardler, Executive Director, Cultural Heritage Division	Heritage Council of NSW
Bernard Carlon, Director Business and Community Programs	NSW Council on Environmental Education
Lisa Corbyn, Director General	Council on the Cost and Quality of Government Environmental Trust Heritage Council of NSW Murray—Darling Basin Commission Natural Resources Advisory Council Natural Resources Commission Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
Dr Tony Fleming, Deputy Director General, Parks and Wildlife Division	Lord Howe Island Board Marine Parks Authority Nature Conservation Trust
Mark Johnston, Regional Manager, Northern Rivers	Cape Byron Trust
David Keith, Senior Research Scientist	NSW Scientific Committee
Craig Lamberton, Director Specialised Regulation	Radiation Advisory Council
Bob Makinson, Coordinator, Centre for Plant Conservation	NSW Scientific Committee
Liz Moore, Manager Chemicals Policy Unit	Hazardous Chemicals Advisory Committee
Tim Rogers, Executive Director, Sustainability Programs Division	State Contracts Control Board
Dr Todd Soderquist, Senior Threatened Species Officer	NSW Scientific Committee
Dr Lynn Webber, Manager Conservation Partnerships	Nature Conservation Trust NSW Council on Environmental Education

DEC membership of significant interdepartmental committees

Jason Ardler, Executive Director, Cultural Heritage Division	NSW Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee NSW Aboriginal Affairs Culture and Heritage Cluster NSW Aboriginal Natural Resources Panel	
Sally Barnes, Executive Director, Strategy, Communication and Governance Division	Wetland Recovery Plan Project Team	
Jim Booth, Executive Director, Policy and Science Division	Energy Savings Fund Advisory Committee Interdepartmental Committee on Energy Natural Resource Information Needs Committee Natural Resources Management Joint Steering Committee Natural Resources Policy and Programs Committee Water Savings Fund Advisory Committee	
Lisa Corbyn, Director General	Aquaculture Steering Committee CEO Forum on Economic Development CEO Forum on Major Infrastructure and Development Approvals CEO Group on Aboriginal Affairs CEO Group on Counter Terrorism CEO Group on Greenhouse CEO Group on Sustainability CEO Group on Water Chief Executive Committee Interim Community Conservation Council Metropolitan Strategy CEO Committee Natural Resources and Environment CEO Cluster Group Planning CEO Forum	
Arthur Diakos, Executive Director, Corporate Services Division	NSW Treasury Managed Fund Advisory Board	
Terry Korn, Director Western, Parks and Wildlife Division	Brigelow Assistance Fund Advisory Committee Regional Coordination Management Group (Western NSW)	
Simon Smith, Deputy Director General, Environment Protection and Regulation Division	Planning Reform Reference Group	
Joe Woodward, Executive Director Operations, Environment Protection and Regulation Division	Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Technical Committee Intensive Agriculture Consultative Committee NSW National Oil Spill Plan Executive Committee State Emergency Management Committee	

6. Staff statistics

Employees by classification

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees.

Environment Protection Officers EFT 30 June 2004	EFT 30 June 2005
EPO 1 7	5
EPO 2 25	51
EPO 3 41	57
EPO 4 36	34
EPO 5 56	58
EPO 6 42	35
EPO 7 58	68
EPO 8 124	116
EPO 9 92	123
EPO 10 107	95
EPO 11 56	56
EPO 12 58	56
EPO 13 46	60
EPO 14 7	4
EPO 15 30	34
Senior executive service 20	15
Other* 483	249
Sub-total 1,288	1,116

^{* &#}x27;Other' includes clerical staff, departmental professional officers, legal officers, librarians, project research officers and technical officers

Parks and Wildlife Officers	EFT 30 June 2004	EFT 30 June 2005
Area managers	77	78
Field officers	564	563
Pilots/crew	6	5
Project officers/research scientists	101	93
Rangers/senior rangers	253	256
Tradespersons	7	7
Senior officers	21	23
Senior executive service	5	6
Other*	367	370
Sub-total	1,401	1,401

^{* &#}x27;Other' includes clerical staff, departmental professional officers, engineers, general service officers, interpretive assistants and technical officers

Botanic Gardens Officers	EFT 30 June 2004	EFT 30 June 2005
Horticulturists/rangers	147	143
Senior officers	2	2
Senior executive service	3	2
Other*	102	112
Sub-total	254	259

^{* &#}x27;Other' includes building and mechanical trades staff, clerical staff, casual teachers, education officers, herbarium assistants, librarian, sales and information staff, scientific staff and technical officers

DEC	EFT	EFT
	30 June 2004	30 June 2005
Total DEC employees	2,943	2,776

Employees by location

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees.

Location	EFT 30 June 2004	EFT 30 June 2005
Sydney Metropolitan Region	1,697	1,588
Regional areas	1,246	1,188
Total	2,943	2,776

Executive officers

SES Level	30 June 2004	30 June 2005
8	1	1
7	0	0
6	2	2
5	1	1
4	7	5
3	6	9
2	8	5
1	3	0
Total	28	23

Female executive officers

	30 June 2004	30 June 2005
Total	4	4

Employees by work area

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees.

	,	
Work area	EFT 30 June 2004	EFT 30 June 2005
DEC	1	1
Botanic Gardens Trust	254	259
Corporate Services Division	212	177
Cultural Heritage Division	56	55
Environment Protection and Regulation Division	484	417
Parks and Wildlife Division	1,401	1,401
Policy and Science Division	277	255
Strategy, Communication and Governance Division	139	133
Sustainability Programs Division	119	78
Total	2,943	2,776

Staff representation levels for EEO groups

Trends in the representation of EEO groups

	% of total staff*		
EEO group	Benchmark	30 June 2004	30 June 2005
Women	50%	41.0%	42.0%
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	2%	5.1%	6.1%
People whose first language was not English	19%	8.0%	9.0%
People with a disability	12%	4.0%	4.0%
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	7%	1.3%	1.3%

^{*} Excludes casual staff

Trends in the distribution of EEO groups

	Distribution Index*		
EEO group	Benchmark	30 June 2004	30 June 2005
Women	100	102	101
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	100	67	70
People whose first language was not English	100	107	107
People with a disability	100	99	102
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	100	105	114

^{*} A Distribution Index of 100 indicates that the centre of the distribution of the EEO group across salary levels is equivalent to that of other staff. Values less than 100 mean that the EEO group tends to be more concentrated at lower salary levels than is the case for other staff. The more pronounced this tendency is, the lower the index will be. In some cases the index may be more than 100, indicating that the EEO group is less concentrated at lower salary levels.

7. Legislation and legal changes

Acts administered by DEC

DEC has responsibilities, powers, duties and functions - some of which are exercised in the name of the EPA – under the following NSW legislation:

- Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Act 2005
- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997
- Crown Lands Act 1989 (only for certain matters relating to the Jenolan Caves Reserves)
- Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985
- Environmental Trust Act 1998
- Filming Approval Act 2004
- Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998
- Forestry Restructuring and Nature Conservation Act 1995
- Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act
- Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act
- Forestry Revocation and National Parks Reservation Act 1984
- Lane Cove National Park (Sugarloaf Point Additions) Act
- Lord Howe Island Act 1953
- Lord Howe Island Aerodrome Act 1974
- Marine Parks Act 1997
- National Environment Protection Council (New South Wales)
- National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2002

- National Park Estate (Reservations) Act 2003
- National Park Estate (Southern Region Reservations) Act 2000
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2001
- National Parks and Wildlife (Adjustment of Areas) Act 2005
- National Parks and Wildlife (Further Adjustment of Areas)
- Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001
- Ozone Protection Act 1989
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Radiation Control Act 1990
- Recreation Vehicles Act 1983
- Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) Act 1997
- Roads Act 1993 (only in relation to Lord Howe Island)
- Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001
- Wilderness Act 1987.

New and amending Acts

The following Acts were assented to in 2004–05:

• Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Act 2005 (assented to on 1 July 2005) creates a Community Conservation Area in the Brigalow and Nandewar areas of central-northern NSW, which will be divided into four zones. The Brigalow and Nandewar Community Conservation Council and Community Conservation Advisory Committees are established, the Waste Fund is abolished and its funds are transferred to the Environmental Trust Fund.

- National Parks and Wildlife (Further Adjustment of Areas)
 Act 2005 (assented to on 1 July 2005) revokes the
 reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
 of small areas of land within the Illawarra Escarpment State
 Conservation Area, Jerrawangala National Park and Morton
 National Park.
- Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 makes a number of minor changes to legislation administered by DEC, including: (1) extending the operation of the Used Packaging Materials Industry Waste Reduction Plan to 1 July 2006 under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001; (2) allowing the EPA to waive or refund licence administrative fees on the surrender of an environment protection licence under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997; and (3) exempting owners of certain devices from registration requirements under the Radiation Control Act 1990.
- Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 2004 makes a number of minor changes to legislation administered by DEC.
- Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2005 (assented to on 1 July 2005) makes a number of minor changes to legislation administered by DEC, including: (1) requiring penalties recovered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act) to be paid into the National Parks and Wildlife Fund; (2) providing that investigative notices issued under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 will continue to have effect until complied with, even if the due date for compliance has expired; and (3) allowing offences under the TSC Act to be prescribed as penalty notice offences.
- Threatened Species Legislation Amendment Act 2004 further integrates natural resource management and landuse planning systems with conservation laws. The amendments will allow the Minister to confer biodiversity certification on the native vegetation reform package. This will allow activities authorised by a property vegetation plan to be carried out without a separate threatened species licence and will operate as a defence to certain offences under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act). The amending Act will also allow biodiversity certification of an environmental planning instrument, allowing certain developments and activities to be taken as not likely to significantly affect threatened species, population or ecological community, or their habitat for the purposes of Parts 4 and 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Other changes include: (1) the Director General will be required to prepare and adopt a Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement; (2) accredited consultants will be able to undertake certain surveys and assessments; (3) the introduction of the new categories of critically endangered ecological community and critically endangered species; (4) new procedures for listing under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995; (5) the modification of defences to threatened species offences in the NPW Act; and (6) additions to the investigative powers of authorised officers for the purposes of national parks legislation.

New and amending Regulations

The following regulations were gazetted in 2004–05:

- Marine Parks Amendment (Lord Howe Island and Other Amendments) Regulation 2004 amends the Marine Park Regulation 1999 to: (1) establish a zoning plan for Lord Howe Island Marine Park; (2) provide additional powers for marine park rangers; (3) increase penalties for offences; (4) create additional offences; (5) set out the permit process; and (6) make other amendments.
- Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) Temporary
 Exemptions Regulation 2004 and Trans-Tasman Mutual
 Recognition (New South Wales) Temporary Exemptions
 Regulation 2004 temporarily exempt the petrol volatility
 requirements under the Protection of the Environment
 Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002 from the operation
 of the mutual recognition scheme for goods.
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Control of Burning) Amendment Regulation 2004 makes it an offence for a person to burn anything in the open, or in an incinerator, in Broken Hill local government area except in accordance with an approval to burn.
- Protection of the Environment Operations (General)
 Amendment (Luna Park) Regulation 2005 exempts certain activities carried out at Luna Park under particular development consents from the noise provisions of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control)
 Amendment (Motor Cycle Noise Control Equipment)
 Regulation 2004 made changes to the requirements for motor cycles for the labelling of noise control equipment, permitted noise levels and testing of noise levels. It was subsequently disallowed by the NSW Legislative Council.
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Penalty Notices) Regulation 2004 replaces the Protection of the Environment Operations (Penalty Notices) Regulation 1999 and makes some minor changes.
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste)
 Amendment (Controlled Waste) Regulation 2004 makes changes to the regulation of the interstate transport of controlled waste.
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste)
 Amendment (Residue Wastes) Regulation 2005 makes it an offence to apply, or to cause or permit the application of, certain residue waste to land that is used for the purpose of growing vegetation. It provides a defence to the offence and also provides for the granting of exemptions in relation to activities involving residue wastes.

Legislative reviews

DEC undertook a review of the *Environmental Trust Act 1998* in 2004–05. A report on the review of the Act was tabled in Parliament in 2004–05.

A consultation draft of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment Bill 2005* was tabled in Parliament and made available for public comment in June 2005. The draft Bill implements recommendations arising from the review of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* undertaken in 2002–03.

Infringements and prosecutions

Penalty notices issued by DEC using EPA powers

Infringement	DEC authorised officers	Local government authorised officers
Motor vehicles: smoke — Clean Air (Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Fuels) Regulation	1,184	0
Motor vehicles: other air offences – POEO* Act, Clean Air (Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Fuels) Regulation	42	0
Motor vehicles: noise — POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	599	23
Littering: from motor vehicles – POEO Act	1,380	3,544
Littering (aggravated): motor vehicle-related — POEO Act	8	1
Littering: except from motor vehicles — POEO Act	0	902
Water: all offences – POEO Act	23	1,327
Air and odour: all non-vehicle offences – POEO Act, POEO (Control of Burning) Regulation and Clean Air (Plant and Equipment) Regulation	10	66
Noise: all non-vehicle offences – POEO Act, POEO (Noise Control) Regulation	0	23
Waste: all offences – POEO Act, POEO (Waste) Regulation and Waste Minimisation and Management Act	25	499
Other offences (e.g. contravene a condition of a licence) — POEO Act and POEO (General) Regulation	228	402
Dangerous goods: all offences — Road Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations and Rail Transport Reform (Dangerous Goods) (NSW) Regulations	23	0
Pesticides: all offences – Pesticides Act	17	0
Radiation: all offences	0	0
Ozone: all offences – Ozone Protection Act and Regulation	0	0
Total penalty infringement notices issued	3,539	6,787
Total value of fines imposed (estimates only)	\$1,270,840	\$3,456,740

^{*} POEO: Protection of the Environment Operations

Sources: DEC statistics; EPA Board reports and DEC Motor Vehicle Enforcement Unit; local government statistics; Infringement Processing Bureau as part of the Office of State Revenue in the Treasury and under the control and direction of the State Debt Recovery Office.

Note: DEC issues smoky vehicle penalty notices on behalf of local councils and processes some littering penalty infringement notices on behalf of councils.

Details of prosecutions completed during 2004–05 are reported below.

LEC: Land and Environment Court

LC: Local Court

s.10: under section 10 of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999*, the Court, although finding the defendant guilty of the offences charged, did not record a conviction or impose a fine.

Prosecutions using EPA powers

TIER 1 OFFENCES

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
Protection of the Environment	t Operations Act 1997		
Perry, Stanley James	Negligently dispose of waste in a manner that harms or is likely to harm the environment	\$30,000	LEC
Total Tier 1 offences		\$30,000	
TIER 2 OFFENCES Protection of the Environment	t Operations Act 1997		
Ali, Saeb	Littering	Acquitted	LC
Award Excavation and Demolition Pty Ltd	Failure to comply with an investigative requirement under chapter 7	\$2,000	LC
Bituminous Products Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$15,000	LEC
Black, Ian Stuart	Littering	s.10	LC
Bluescope Steel (AIS) Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$70,000	LEC
Browne, Trevor John	Littering	\$500	LC
Camilleri, David Michael	Litter	\$500	LC
Cargill Australia Ltd	Emit offensive odour from scheduled premises	Ordered to enhance the environment by planting trees to the value of \$32,000	LEC
Coffs Harbour Hardwoods (Trading) Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$7,200	LEC
Cut and Fill Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$7,800	LEC
Davey, Annette Louise	Littering	s.10	LC
Davis, Geoffrey James	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$5,000	LEC
Doran, Natasha	Littering	\$200	LC
Eljo Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$5,750 Ordered to pay laboratory analysis costs of \$772.50	LEC
Encore Tissue Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$30,000	LEC
Flood, Kerry Raymond	Littering	s.10	LC
Forestry Commission of New South Wales	Pollute waters	\$30,000	LEC
Goulburn Wool Scour Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	Ordered to enhance environment by regenerating bushland to the value of \$20,000	LEC
Illawarra Coke Company Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	\$40,000	LEC
Lanesman, Robin Howard	Littering	\$100	LC
Lyons, Ian Robert	Littering	\$200	LC
Molyneux, Walter Beck	Littering	s.10	LC
Obaid, Juan Manuel	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$4,875	LEC
Obaid, Juan Manuel	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$19,500	LEC

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
Obaid, Juan Manuel	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$9,750 Ordered to remove the waste	LEC
Obaid, Juan Manuel	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$39,000 Ordered to pay \$1,731.20 compensation to the landowner for the removal of waste	LEC
Pannowitz, Kenneth	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$20,000	LEC
Perilya Broken Hill Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$2,000	LC
Pollution and Laboratory Services Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$2,000	LC
Robinson, Alan	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	\$8,000	LEC
Rogers, Bruce Alfred	Littering	Acquitted	LC
Samcou, Sam	Littering	Acquitted	LC
Select Civil Pty Ltd	Pollute waters	s.10	LEC
Slade, Andrew Howard	Unlawful use of land as a waste facility	Ordered to build a \$20,000 cattle-proof fence on border with a national park	LEC
Small Poppies Pty Ltd	Littering	s.10	LC
Solo Waste Australia Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$5,750 Ordered to pay laboratory analysis expenses of \$772.50	LEC
Starke, Alexander	Littering	s.10	LC
Steepleton Pty Ltd	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$40,000 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in <i>The Newcastle Herald</i> and the <i>Waste Management and</i> <i>Environment Journal</i>	LEC
Sydney Ship Repair and Engineering Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$12,500	LEC
Sydney Ship Repair and Engineering Pty Ltd	Breach licence condition	\$25,000	LEC
Terrace Earthmoving Pty Ltd	Unlawfully transport and deposit waste	\$30,000 Ordered to publicise details of the offence in <i>The Newcastle Herald</i>	LEC
Vanderputt, Glenn Matthew	Littering	\$200	LC
Woodland Home Products Pty Ltd	Littering	\$200	LC
Yolarno Pty Ltd	Air pollution caused from a failure to deal with materials in a proper and efficient manner	Ordered to restore Ploughmans Creek to the value of \$10,000 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Central West Daily</i>	LEC
Yolarno Pty Ltd	Air pollution caused from a failure to deal with materials in a proper and efficient manner	Ordered to restore Ploughmans Creek to the value of \$10,000 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Central West Daily</i>	LEC
Yolarno Pty Ltd	Air pollution caused from a failure to deal with materials in a proper and efficient manner	Ordered to restore Ploughmans Creek to the value of \$10,000 and to publicise details of the offence in the <i>Central West Daily</i>	LEC
Protection of the Environment	Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 20	000	
Abdul-Rahman, Noureldeen	Vehicle's noise control equipment defective	\$150	LC
Abdul-Rahman, Noureldeen	Vehicle's noise control equipment defective	\$150	LC
Brown, Lachlan Robert	Noisy vehicle	\$200	LC
Brown, Lachlan Robert	Vehicle's noise control equipment defective	\$200	LC
Calico, David	Noisy vehicle	\$200	LC

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required portable warning devices	\$1,000	LC
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required safety equipment	\$1,000	LC
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required fire extinguisher	\$1,500	LC
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required portable warning devices	\$1,000	LC
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods without required emergency information	\$1,000	LC
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods in vehicle that does not comply with the ADG Code	\$3,000	LC
Whiley Transport Pty Ltd	Transport dangerous goods in vehicle that does not comply with the ADG Code	\$3,000	LC
National Parks and Wildlife	Act 1974		
Cowra Shire Council	Knowingly destroy Aboriginal object	\$750	LC
Tanks, Daniel Edward	Harm protected fauna	\$2,500	LC
Total Tier 2 offences		\$513,675	
CONTEMPT OF COURT			
Thaler, Andrew Evan	Contempt of Court (fail to comply with Court Orders)	\$50,000	LEC
Total EPA prosecutions		\$593,675	

Prosecutions on parks and reserves

Defendant	Charge	Result/penalty	Court
National Parks and Wildlife	e Act 1974		
Blake, Warren	Breach licence condition	\$3,500	LC
Blake, Warren	Breach licence condition	\$1,000	LC
Blake, Warren	Breach licence condition	\$1,000	LC
Fisher, Howard Keith	Harm protected fauna	\$500	LC
Hartcher, Rana Catherine	Possess protected fauna	\$200	LC
Hatton, Gary John	Harm protected fauna	\$500	LC
National Parks and Wildlife	Regulation 2002		
Baghlani, Leon	Littering in park	\$2,000	LC
Burton, Darren Lyons	Drive vehicle on access-restricted trail	Convicted with no penalty	LC
Butcher, Peter Eric	Fail to pay park entry fee	\$100	LC
Carroll, John Michael	Possess animal in park	\$250	LC
Carroll, John Michael	Dog in park with radio tracking equipment	\$250	LC
Cochran, Andrew George	Drive vehicle in park dangerously	\$300	LC
Cochran, Andrew George	Fail to pay park entry fee	\$100	LC
Cochran, Warren James	Fail to pay park entry fee	s.10 Ordered to enter into a 6-month good behaviour bond	LC
Darlington, Graham Allan	Drive vehicle on access-restricted track	\$150	LC
Dawson, Scott Frederick	Light, maintain, use fire in unauthorised place in park	\$500	LC
Dawson, Scott Frederick	Camping in park in a prohibited area	\$500	LC
Digby, Anita Jane	Park vehicle without valid pass displayed	\$60	LC

9. DEC-managed lands at 30 June 2005

Aboriginal areas

011 0 010	
	Area (ha)
Appletree	4
Finchley	4
Howe	7
Lennox Head	<1
Mooney Mooney	8
Mt Ku-ring-gai	1
Murramarang	60
Nambucca	2
Nunguu Mirral	122
Pindera Downs	11,433
Stonewoman	2
Total area Aboriginal areas	11,643

Historic sites

	Area (ha)
Cadmans Cottage	<1
Clybucca	467
Davidson whaling	station 27
Hartley	13
Hill End	134
Innes Ruins	406
Koonadan	22
Maroota	33
Maynggu Ganai	16
Mt Grenfell	1,357
Mutawintji	486
Throsby Park	74
Tweed Heads	8
Wisemans Ferry	21
Yuranighs Aborigin	al grave 2
Total area historic sites	3,065

National parks

19,000 186 4,023
4,023
8,883
2,141
3,230
11,214
73,933
2,820
294
2,830
1,399
10,486
2,500
13,749
4,396
5,513
6,503
267,183
4,136
4,377
1,567
31,729
456
1,532
2,647
18,472
11,474
4,226
23,787
7,120
1,022
20,116
3,730
3,000
4,297
11,397
3,620
1,504
10,897
424
19,093
1,278

	Area (ha
Conimbla	7,590
Conjola	11,063
Coolah Tops	13,265
Coorabakh	1,840
Cottan-bimbang	30,679
Crowdy Bay	10,279
Culgoa	22,006
Cunnawarra	16,315
Deua	117,826
 Dharug	14,850
 Dooragan	1,042
Dorrigo	11,903
Dunggir	2,651
Eurobodalla	2,911
Fortis Creek	7,960
Gardens of Stone	15,010
Garigal	2,203
	337
Georges River	
Ghin-Doo-Ee	4,819
Gibraltar Range	25,407
Goobang	42,080
Goonengerry	440
Goulburn River	70,649
Gourock	7,873
Gulaga	4,673
Gundabooka	63,903
Guy Fawkes River	100,029
Hat Head	7,396
Heathcote	2,673
Indwarra	940
Jerrawangala	4,013
Jervis Bay	4,854
Junuy Juluum	945
Kalyarr	8,173
Kanangra-Boyd	68,661
Kinchega	44,260
Kings Plains	6,919
Kooraban	11,643
Koreelah	5,270
Kosciuszko	673,524
Kumbatine	14,881
Ku-ring-gai Chase	14,928
Kwiambal	1,301
Lane Cove	600
Livingstone	1,919
	.,

	Area (ha)
Macquarie Pass	1,064
Mallanganee	1,144
Mallee Cliffs	57,969
Maria	2,335
Marramarra	11,786
Maryland	890
Mebbin	3,800
Meroo	3,643
Middle Brother	1,830
Mimosa Rocks	5,802
Minjary	1,462
Monga	25,144
Mooball	1,160
Vorton	190,751
Mt Clunie	1,426
VIt Imlay	4,822
Mt Jerusalem	5,149
VIt Kaputar	36,817
Mt Nothofagus	2,180
Mt Pikapene	2,630
Mt Royal	6,920
Mt Warning	2,455
Mummel Gulf	12,220
Mungo	110,967
Murramarang	12,095
Mutawintji	68,912
Myall Lakes	47,493
Vangar	9,196
Vattai	48,944
New England	72,241
Nightcap	8,080
Nowendoc	15,019
Nymboi-Binderay	17,243
Nymboida	38,119
Dolambeyan	21,851
Oxley Wild Rivers	142,298
Paroo-Darling	178,053
Popran	3,970
	3,307
Richmond Range	15,712
Royal	15,092
Saltwater	33
Scheyville	920
Seven Mile Beach	898
Single	2,559
<u> </u>	,

National parks (continued)

(continued)	Area (ha)
South-East Forest	115,534
Sturt	325,329
Sydney Harbour	393
Tallaganda	16,727
Tapin Tops	10,976
Tarlo River	8,074
Thirlmere Lakes	630
Timbarra	1,772
Tomaree	2,347
Tooloom	4,380
Toonumbar	14,991
Towarri	5,328
Turon	2,970
Ulidarra	680
Wadbilliga	98,530
Wallarah	178
Wallingat	6,557
Warra	2,031
Warrabah	3,471
Warrumbungle	23,198
Washpool	65,779
Watagans	7,751
Weddin Mountains	8,361
Werakata	3,149
Werrikimbe	33,309
Willandra	19,386
Willi Willi	29,870
Woko	8,598
Wollemi	493,434
Wollumbin	1,662
Woomargama	23,577
Wyrrabalong	621
Yabbra	8,890
Yanununbeyan	3,521
Yarriabini	2,183
Yengo	153,115
Yuraygir	35,323
Total area 4, national parks	882,068

Nature reserves

6261 A62	
	Area (ha)
Aberbaldie	284
Agnes Banks	107
Andrew Johnston Big Scrub	21
Arakoola	3,180
Araluen	656
Avisford	2,437
Awabakal	228
Baalijin	2,701
Back River	735
Badja Swamps	561
Bagul Waajaarr	520
Ballina	721
Bamarang	370
Bandicoot Island	30
Banyabba	15,210
Barrengarry	21
Barren Grounds	2,024
Barton	529
Bees Nest	584
Bell Bird Creek	53
Belowla Island	4
Berkeley	8
Bermaguee	818
Big Bush	640
Billinudgel	739
Bimberi	10,886
Binjura	707
Binnaway	3,699
Bird Island	7
Black Andrew	1,559
Bluff River	1,793
Boatharbour	24
Bobundara	204
Bogandyera	8,752
Boginderra Hills	554
Bolivia Hill	1,782
Bollanolla	650
Bondi Gulf	1,800
Boomi	156
Boomi West	149
Boonanghi	4,470
Boondelbah	9
Boorganna	390
Booroolong	865

	Area (ha)
Boronga	195
Bournda	5,862
Bowraville	81
Bretti	2,902
Brigalow Park	202
Brimbin	40
Broken Head	98
Broulee Island	43
Brundee Swamp	230
Brunswick Heads	204
Brush Island	47
Buddigower	327
Budelah	4,045
Bugan	1,530
Bungabbee	169
Bungawalbin	467
Burning Mountain	15
Burnt-Down Scrub	364
Burnt School	285
Burra Creek	270
Burrinjuck	3,248
Bushy Island	<1
Byrnes Scrub	737
Cambewarra Range	1,886
Camels Hump	545
Camerons Gorge	1,318
Captains Creek	2,290
Careunga	469
Castlereagh	490
Cecil Hoskins	47
Cedar Brush	190
 Chambigne	798
Chapmans Peak	72
Clarence Estuary	120
Clarkes Hill	2,201
Cockle Bay	44
Cocopara	4,647
Comerong Island	660
Coocumbac Island	5
Cook Island	5
Coolbaggie	1,793
Coolongolook	198
Coolumbooka	1,529
Cooperabung Creek	
Coornartha	1,184
Copperhannia	3,497
Coramba	3,497
COIGIIING	

	Area (ha)
Corrie Island	164
Couchy Creek	218
Courabyra	239
Coxcomb	73
Ludgen	725
Cullendulla Creek	126
Cumbebin Swamp	40
Cuumbeun	709
Dalrymple-Hay	11
Dananbilla	2,432
Dangelong	1,966
Dapper	999
Darawank	575
Davis Scrub	14
Deer Vale	181
Demon	900
Dharawal	347
Donnybrook	276
Downfall	496
Dural	26
Duval	240
agles Claw	1
gan Peaks	2,145
Ellerslie	1,877
ugowra	120
Evans Crown	425
ifes Knob	553
ishermans Bend	160
ive Islands	27
laggy Creek	72
lagstaff Memorial	18
reemantle	361
Gads Sugarloaf	477
Gamilaroi	114
Ganay	693
Garby	117
Georges Creek	1,190
Gibraltar	161
Girralang	640
Good Good	20
Goonawarra	437
Goonook	930
Goorooyarroo	266
Gubbata	162
Gulguer	359
Gungewalla	142
Guy Fawkes River	1,534

Nature reserves (continued)

(continued)	
	Area (ha)
Hattons Bluff	18
Hattons Corner	4
Hayters Hill	8
Hexham Swamp	900
Hogarth Range	853
Hortons Creek	330
Illawong	51
Illunie	721
Iluka	136
Imbota	218
Ingalba	4,012
Inner Pocket	236
Ironbark	1,604
Ironmungy	713
Jaaningga	975
Jagun	100
Jasper	355
Jerilderie	37
Jerralong	341
Jingellic	2,137
Joadja	832
Jobs Mountain	702
John Gould	26
Julian Rocks	<1
Juugawaarri	2,396
Kajuligah	13,660
Kangaroo River	126
Karuah	2,742
Kattang	58
Kemendok	1,043
Kemps Creek	129
Khappinghat	3,514
Khatambuhl	694
Killabakh	2,644
Killarney	435
Kirramingly	1,306
Kooragang	2,926
Koorawatha	1,105
Koorebang	465
Kororo	11
Koukandowie	1,283
Kuma	184
Kybeyan	432
Lake Innes	3,526
Lake Urana	302
Langtree	235

	Area (ha)
Ledknapper	16,339
Limeburners Creek	9,224
Limpinwood	2,647
Linton	640
Lion Island	8
Little Broughton Islar	
Little Llangothlin	258
Little Pimlico Island	16
Long Island	73
Loughnan	385
Macquarie	12
Macquarie Marshes	19,136
Mann River	7,129
Manobalai	3,759
Marshalls Creek	112
Melville Range	843
Meringo	49
Mernot	320
Merriangaah	5,669
Midkin	359
Mills Island	61
Moffats Swamp	151
Monkerai	865
Monkeycot	1,612
Montague Island	82
Moonee Beach	336
Moon Island	1
Moore Park	15
Mororo Creek	80
Morrisons Lake	312
Mother of Ducks	181
Lagoon	206
Mt Clifford	306
Mt Dowling	513
Mt Hyland	2,519
Mt Mackenzie	141
Mt Neville	5,821
Mt Nullum	99
Mt Seaview	1,704
Mt Yarrowyck	170
Muckleewee Mounta	
Mudjarn	591
Muldiva	10
Mulgoa	214
Mullengandra	150
Mundoonen	1,359
Munghorn Gap	5,934

Munro Island

14

	Area (ha)
Muogamarra	2,274
Mutawintji	6,688
Muttonbird Island	8
Myalla	143
Nadgee	20,671
Nadgigomar	5,596
Narrandera	71
Narran Lake	8,535
Narrawallee Creek	878
Nearie Lake	4,347
Nest Hill	759
Newington	48
Ngadang	160
Ngambaa	10,560
Ngulin	1,250
Nimmo	724
Nocoleche	74,000
Nombinnie	70,000
North Obelisk	36
North Rock	4
North Solitary Island	1 20
North-West Solitary	
Numeralla	435
Numinbah	858
Dak Creek	404
One Tree Island	1
Pambalong	35
Parma Creek	3,486
Paupong	1,838
Pee Dee	441
Pelican Island	40
Pilliga	80,239
Pitt Town	46
Planchonella	717
Pucawan	274
Pulbah Island	69
Pulletop	145
Quanda	4,784
Queanbeyan	68
Queens Lake	1,402
Quidong	750
Rawdon Creek	560
Razorback	2,595
Regatta Island	102
Richmond River	256
Rileys Island	46
Robertson	5

	Area (ha)
Rodway	83
Round Hill	13,630
Running Creek	910
Saltwater Swamp	215
Scabby Range	4,982
Scott	151
Sea Acres	76
Seaham Swamp	11
Seal Rocks	<1
Serpentine	723
Severn River	4,290
Sherwood	5,904
Skillion	691
Snapper Island	13
Snows Gully	34
South-West Solitary	Island 3
Spectacle Island	36
Split Solitary Island	4
Stony Batter Creek	564
Stony Creek	80
Stormpetrel	8
Stotts Island	142
Strike-a-Light	407
Susan Island	23
Tabbimoble Swamp	1,070
Tabletop	104
Talawahl	3,150
Tallawudjah	1,247
Tapitallee	95
Tarawi	33,573
The Basin	2,318
The Castles	2,720
The Charcoal Tank	86
The Glen	2,750
The Rock	347
 Tilligerry	508
Tinderry	14,623
Tingira Heights	18
Tollgate Islands	12
Tollingo	3,232
Tomalla	605
Towibakh	62
Towra Point	386
Triplarina	158
Tuckean	919
Tucki Tucki	4
Tuggolo Creek	645
ruggoio CIEEK	

Nature	reserves
(contin	ued)
(COITLIII)	ueu)

(continued)	
	Area (ha)
Turallo	25
Tweed Estuary	59
Tyagarah	800
Ukerebagh	150
Ulandra	3,931
Undoo	19
Uralba	288
Valla	30
Victoria Park	18
Wadjan	92
Wallabadah	1,132
Wallamba	1,160
Wallaroo	2,780
Wallis Island	473
Wallumatta	6
Wamberal Lagoon	132
Wambina	57
Wambool	194
Wanna Wanna	33
Waragai Creek	186
Watsons Creek	1,260
Wee Jasper	631
Weelah	38
Weetalibah	613
Wiesners Swamp	103
Willi Willi Caves	8
Wilson	27
Winburndale	10,718
Windsor Downs	363
Wingen Maid	1,077
Wingham Brush	8
Wogamia	277
Woggoon	6,565
Wollondilly River	862
Wongarbon	99
Woodford Island	374
Woollamia	452
Wooyung	87
Worimi	500
Worrigee	232
Wullwye	155
Yaegl	313
Yahoo Island	47
Yanga	1,773
Yanununbeyan	40
Yaouk	2,924
Yarravel	318

	Area (ha)
Yarringully	285
Yathong	107,241
Yatteyattah	19
Yessabah	10
Yina	100
Total area	843,279

State conservation areas

nature reserves

arcas	
	Area (ha)
Arakoon	114
Avondale	313
Banyabba	3,566
Bargo	5,660
Barnunj	164
Barrington Tops	8,446
Bents Basin	48
Berlang	2,319
Bindarri	434
Black Bulga	1,554
Brindabella	2,880
Bundjalung	4,870
Bungawalbin	1,834
Bungonia	4,007
Burragorang	17,642
Butterleaf	712
Cape Byron	99
Carrai	3,463
Cascade	412
Chaelundi	1,624
Chatsworth Hill	510
Colymea	1,674
Coneac	449
Copeland Tops	1,692
Corramy	856
Corymbia	495
Cottan-Bimbang	105
Curracabundi	729
Currys Gap	227
Dharawal	6,266
Frogs Hole	77
Garawarra	949
Georges River	1
Glenrock	516
Gumbaynggirr	2,561
Gurranang	111

	Area (ha)
Guy Fawkes River	5,241
Illawarra Escarpment	2,322
Jackywalbin	661
Jilliby	12,159
Karuah	281
Kooyong	753
Kumbatine	783
Kybeyan	4,070
	224

Kumbatine	/63
Kybeyan	4,070
Lake Innes	321
Lake Macquarie	667
Laurence Road	440
Livingstone	484
Macanally	2,290
Macquarie Pass	166
Majors Creek	706
Morton	1,050
Medowie	1,858
Mt Canobolas	1,673
Mt Hyland	293
Mullion Range	1,025
Mummel Gulf	1,162
Munmorah	1,515
Nattai	3,383
Nombinnie	46,000
Nymboi-Binderay	585
Nymboida	528
Oxley Wild Rivers	1,439
Paroo-Darling	41,521
Parr	38,121
Queens Lake	1,026
Talawahl	136
Tallaganda	5,281
The Cells	4,708
Toonumbar	128
Torrington	30,052
Tumblong	746
Washpool	246
Wereboldera	2,263
Whian Whian	2,439
Wollumbin	368
Wombat Creek	1,077
Yanununbeyan	3,823

Total area state 316,846 conservation areas

Yarringully

Yerranderie Yurrammie

Yuraygir

114

221 3,150

12,192

Regional parks

	Area (ha)
Berowra Valley	3,885
Bomaderry Creek	82
Coffs Coast	360
Leacock	34
Parramatta River	5
Penrith Lakes	1
Rouse Hill	43
Western Sydney	564
William Howe	43
Wolli Creek	8
Yellomundee	485
Total area regional parks	5,509

Karst conservation reserves

	Area (ha)	
Abercrombie	1,434	
Borenore	136	
Jenolan	2,422	
Wombeyan	417	
Total area 4,409 karst conservation		
reserves		
Total	6,066,819	

DEC-managed

Summary as at 30 June 2005

Туре	No.	Area (ha)
Historic sites	15	3,065
National parks	171	4,882,068
Aboriginal areas	11	11,643
State conservation areas	82	316,846
Nature reserves	377	843,279
Regional parks	11	5,509
Karst conservation reserves	4	4,409
Total	671	6,066,819*

^{*}Represents 7.57% of land area of NSW

Declared wilderness in NSW

NP: National Park
NR: Nature Reserve
RP: Regional Park

SCA: State Conservation Area

Wilderness area	Reserve name	Size (ha)*
Banyabba	Banyabba NR	17,924
Barrington	Barrington Tops NP, Mt Royal NP	58,330
Bimberi	Kosciuszko NP, Bimberi and Scabby Range NRs	60,785
Bindery-Mann	Nymboida, Gibraltar Range and Barool NPs	56,241
Bogong Peaks	Kosciuszko NP	28,758
Bramina	Kosciuszko NP	10,897
Brogo	Wadbilliga NP	39,900
Buckenbowra	Monga and Deua NPs	9,180
Budawang	Morton and Budawang NPs, Freehold (VCA)	75,839
Burra Oulla	Deua NP	17,776
Bundjalung	Bundjalung and Fortis Creek NPs	10,679
Byadbo	Kosciuszko NP	80,907
Carrai	Carrai NP	3,503
Cathedral Rock	Cathedral Rock NP	8,453
Ettrema	Morton NP	67,005
Genoa	South-East Forest NP	6,161
Goobarragandra	Kosciuszko NP	33,532
Grattai	Mt Kaputar NP	4,180
Grose	Blue Mountains NP	37,788
Guy Fawkes	Guy Fawkes River NP and NR, Cathedral Rock NP	84,100
Indi	Kosciuszko NP	11,652
Jagungal	Kosciuszko NP	67,213
Kanangra-Boyd	Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd NPs, Yerranderie SRA	122,522
Kunderang	Oxley Wild Rivers NP	21,402
Levers	Border Ranges NP	15,266

Wilderness area	Reserve name	Size (ha)*
Limeburners Creek	Limeburners Creek NR	8,351
Lost World	Border Ranges NP, Limpinwood NR	9,068
Macleay Gorges	Cunnawarra and Oxley Wild Rivers NPs and Georges Creek NR	77,741
Mootwingee	Mootwingee NP	47,895
Mt Seaview	Cotton-Bimbang NP, Mt Seaview NR	12,114
Nadgee	Nadgee NR	19,433
Nandewar	Mt Kaputar NP	13,182
Nattai	Nattai NP	29,040
New England	New England and Cunnawarra NPs	55,462
Pilot	Kosciuszko NP	80,311
Rusden	Mt Kaputar NP	12,637
Tuross	Wadbilliga NP	20,592
Warrazambil	Border Ranges NP	7,228
Washpool	Washpool, Gibraltar Range and Nymboida NPs	53,092
Werrikimbe	Werrikimbe NP	27,051
West Ettrema	Morton NP	12,770
Western Fall	Kosciuszko NP	15,217
Willi Willi	Willi Willi NP, Boonanghi NF	23,289
Woila Deua	Deua NP	26,996
Wollemi	Wollemi and Blue Mountains NPs	359,984
Yowrie	Wadbilliga NP	15,787
Total (46 conting	uous areas)	1,877,233**

^{*} Areas are calculated from DEC's digital mapping system (Lambert's projection) and rounded to the nearest hectare.

^{**}Represents 2.3% of the total land area of NSW and 31% of total DEC-managed parks and reserves

Park/location	Area (ha)
Agnes Banks NR	16.1
Barakee NP	1,669.9
Barrington Tops NP	631.0
Bees Nest NR	1,032.0
Billinudgel NR	43.4
Blue Gum Hills	129.0
Blue Mountains NP	1,099.4
Boambee	0.2
Bogandyera NR	422.4
Booroolong NR	102.0
Border Ranges NP	0.2
Bouddi NP	0.1
Brigalow Park NR	50.8
Brigalow Park NR (Claremont)	201.9
Brimbin NR	11.0
Brisbane Water NP	32.7
Brunswick Heads N	R 12.6
Bundjalung NP	221.9
Burrinjuck NR	626.5
Captains Creek NR	544.3
Cataract NP	1,902.0
Cataract SCA	569.4
Cathedral Rock NP	133.6
Chaelundi NP	1,877.5
Coffs Coast RP	19.3
Coolah Tops NP	416.0
Copeland Tops SCA	728.7
Cudgen NR	155.6
Cudgera Creek	59.7
Culgoa NP	2,632.0
Curracabundi	10,537.5

n/dedicatio	n at
Park/location	Area (ha)
Dangelong NR	464.0
Darawank NR	174.5
Deua NP	257.5
Duroby	31.3
Eland	1,995.6
Eurobodalla NP	2.1
Everlasting Swamp	460.2
Flat Camp	7.1
Gandangara	6.9
Garawarra SCA	1.7
Gardens of Stone N	P 69.5
Glenrock SCA	17.8
Goulburn River NP	474.2
Gundabooka SCA	28,224.0
Guy Fawkes River NP	6,580.7
Hartley HS	0.4
Hat Head NP	56.6
Hayters Hill NR	0.1
Heathcote NP	6.6
Hill End HS	3.8
Illawarra Escarpmen SCA	nt 4.6
Inverary	5,358.0
Jervis Bay NP	130.3
Kalyarr	7,185.0
Karuah	562.1
Kooragang NR	60.2
Kumbatine NP	209.0
Ku-ring-gai Chase N	IP 35.6
Kwiambal NP	2,929.8
Kybeyan NR	2,624.0

Park/location	Area (ha)
Lake Innes	16.3
Lake Macquarie SC	4 5.0
Lane Cove NP	21.6
Ledknapper NR	14,187.5
Macquarie Marshes NR	688.0
Marangaroo (Mt Walker)	672.3
Marramarra NP	0.1
Marshalls Creek NR	18.7
Maryland NP	1,392.1
Morton NP	1,585.5
Mt Kaputar NP	4,377.4
Mt Neville NR	753.5
Mummel Gulf NP	1,871.5
Mundoonen NR	110.2
Myall Lakes NP	70.6
Narran Lake NR	13,395.2
Nattai NP	668.6
Nombinnie	7,063.0
Nowendoc NP	1,204.6
Nymboi-Binderay N	P 388.0
Nymboida NP	3,410.8
Nymboida NP (Mann River)	445.6
Oxley Wild Rivers NP	1,369.0
Patches Beach	5.9
Paroo-Darling NP	521.0

Park/location	Area (ha)
Seven Mile Beach N	P 66.2
Severn River NR	1,452.0
Snake Rock	60.7
South-East Forest N	P 1.3
South Solitary Island NR	1 11.1
Stockton Bight	111.3
Sturt NP 1	12,355.0
Sydney Harbour NP	0.5
Tamboroora	10.0
Taringa	1,339.3
Towarri NP	713.8
Towra Point NR	47.5
Wamberal Lagoon N	IR 7.2
Warrabah NP	509.8
Washpool NP	3,613.7
Watchimbark	1,264.0
Weddin Mountains I	NP 16.2
Wollemi NP	366.1
Wolli Creek RP	0.05
Woomargama NP	609.0
Yatteyattah NR	16.2
Yellomundee RP	0.2
Yengo NP	605.0
Yuraygir NP	30.0
Total 16	1,260.1

Lands vested in the Minister administering the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* by virtue of Act 1996 No. 131 (Forestry Revocation and National Park Reservation Act)

Total area: approx. 452 hectares

Crown land occupied by DEC under reserves or lease for various management purposes at 30 June 2005

Location	Reserve	Area (m²)	Purpose
Armidale	R 89685	1,256	Workshop
Armidale	Sp.L.1989/4	2,753	Depot
Broken Hill	R 230017	1,125	Residence
Cobar	R 92637	749	Staff accommodation
Eden (Wirriga Street)	R 91136	1,145	Workshop
Gol Gol	R 91509	2,023	Workshop
Narooma	R 95616	1,992	Workshop
Rylstone	R 190042	2,491	Depot
Tibooburra	R 91376	2,023	Workshop
Tibooburra	R 95882	1,799	Workshop/depot
Tibooburra	R 96931	1,012	Workshop
Ulladulla	R 180018	3,661	Workshop/office
Walcha	R 98162	3,862	Workshop/depot

Lands acquired under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and held for management purposes (not reserved) at 30 June 2005

Location	Area	Purpose
Armidale: 145 Miller Street	2,815 m ²	Depot
Boambee	4,725 m²	Workshop/depot
Bombala	4,900 m ²	Workshop/depot
Bourke: Short, Anson and Tudor streets	3,036 m ²	Staff accommodation
Broken Hill	475 m²	Regional office
Broken Hill: 167–173 Argent Street	1,881 m²	Parking area
Bucketty	6,731 m ²	Workshop
Bulga	36 ha	Office/depot
Cobar: 61 Bradley Street	563 m²	Staff accommodation
Cobar: lots 36 and 37 Wrightville Street and lots 42 and 43 Brickworks Road	1,860 m ²	Workshop
Dorrigo	5,210 m ²	Workshop/depot
Dungog	2,104 m ²	Depot
Ebor	1,700 m ²	Workshop/depot
Eden	4,196 m²	Workshop/depot
Gloucester	7,245 m²	Depot
Griffith	1,808 m²	Workshop/depot
Huskisson: Woollamia Road	2,485 m²	Marine Parks Authority office
Jindabyne: Munyang and Cobbon streets, and Snowy River Avenue	e 1 ha	Staff accommodation/visitor centre
Khancoban: 1, 5 and 13 Douglas Street, 1 and 3 Blackburn Street, 8 Whitehead Street, Scammel Street, 19 Read Street and 24 Sheather Street	1 ha	Staff accommodation
Khancoban: 5 and 6 Gray Street	2,049 m²	Depot
Khancoban: cnr McIlree and Gray streets	1,031 m²	Depot
Menindee	2,023 m ²	Staff accommodation
Narooma	2,665 m ²	Workshop/depot
Nowra	7,954 m²	Workshop/depot
Oakdale	4,274 m²	Depot

Location	Area	Purpose
Oberon	1,701 m ²	Office
Peak Hill	4,023 m²	Workshop/depot
Rylstone	2,188 m²	Depot
Scone: Hayes Street	4,529 m²	Workshop/depot
Tenterfield	6,327 m²	Depot
Tibooburra	506 m²	Office accommodation
Tibooburra	506 m²	Visitor centre
Tibooburra: Sturt Street	1,012 m²	Staff accommodation
White Cliffs: cnr Johnston Street and Karara Road	2,805 m²	Visitor centre
Wilcannia: Woore Street	8,090 m ²	Workshop

10. Statement of affairs

Under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 (FOI Act), DEC is required to prepare a statement of affairs which describes its structure and functions; how the functions affect members of the public; how the public can participate in policy development; documents held by DEC; and how people can access those documents or seek amendment to documents concerning their personal affairs.

Structure and functions

DEC consists of the following divisions:

- Parks and Wildlife Division
- **Environment Protection and Regulation Division**
- Policy and Science Division
- Cultural Heritage Division
- Sustainability Programs Division
- Corporate Services Division
- Strategy, Communication and Governance Division.

Staff of the Botanic Gardens Trust are also part of DEC but report separately under the statutory Trust. For detailed descriptions of DEC's structure and functions, see Chapter 1.

Effect of functions on members of the public

DEC is the NSW government agency with primary responsibility for working with the community to protect and conserve our environment, including our natural and cultural heritage. It is responsible for the implementation of government conservation and environmental regulatory reform initiatives. DEC is committed to preventing pollution before it occurs, avoiding the creation of waste and managing cultural heritage, wildlife and the protected area system. DEC also recognises that strong and credible regulatory programs and innovative regulatory tools are needed to help address environmental problems. These functions have a broad effect on members of the public, for example through:

- licensing regimes for a range of issues including regulation of pollution from industrial premises through to licences to keep native wildlife
- specifying what recreation and other activities can take place on DEC-managed land while maintaining important conservation values
- receiving reports of pollution incidents and responding appropriately
- monitoring and reporting air quality and water quality at ocean and harbour beaches
- encouraging waste reduction, recycling and sustainable resource use.

Public participation in policy formulation

The health of the environment depends on community commitment and involvement at all levels from policy development to everyday business, recreational or domestic activities. This includes all sectors: business, industry, environment groups, individuals, state, local and federal government bodies. DEC works with all of these to implement an integrated environment protection framework for NSW.

The community participates in policy formulation through the various consultative bodies described elsewhere in this Annual Report. DEC also seeks public submissions when developing and reviewing policies, plans and programs. DEC's website regularly features calls for public comment and describes how to make submissions on its proposals.

Documents held by DEC and how to obtain them

DEC holds documents in its metropolitan, regional and area offices. While many documents are available for inspection or purchase, the production of some documents may require an application under the FOI Act, the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

Freedom of information applications

You can apply under the FOI Act for access to documents held by DEC that are not publicly available. The documents can relate to personal or non-personal information. You can also apply under the FOI Act to correct information about your personal affairs that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or outof-date.

Contact the FOI/Privacy Officer at PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232, telephone 131 555 or visit DEC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au for an application form and information about the FOI Act, the process, fees and charges. FOI statistics for 2004–05 are provided at Appendix 11.

Privacy applications

The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and the Health Records and Information Privacy Act regulate the way DEC deals with personal and health information and gives people a legally enforceable right of access to their information. Applications can be made for personal information that may be held by DEC. Applications may also be made to amend personal information that may be incomplete, incorrect, misleading, or out-of-date. If you believe that DEC has breached your privacy, you can ask us to investigate what occurred.

Contact the FOI/Privacy Officer at PO Box A290, Sydney South 1232, telephone 131 555 or visit DEC's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Policy documents

A list of policy documents called the Summary of Affairs is published each June and December in the *Government Gazette* and on the DEC website. These documents include corporate policy documents, scientific policies and manuals, environmental guidelines, field policies and procedures.

Many of these documents are also available on the website, while others may be purchased.

Publications

DEC produces a range of books, guides, teacher's kits, information pamphlets and posters.

Publications may be obtained over the counter at DEC's Goulburn Street office and from many regional and area offices, and visitor centres. The DEC website features a list of publications for sale and downloading.

Photographs and film

A photographic and film library is available to the public and other agencies under certain conditions. Fees and charges may apply.

For further information, contact the DEC Hurstville office on (02) 9585 6444 or visit the DEC website.

Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS)

DEC maintains information on the type and location of Aboriginal objects, places, reports and slides. Access to AHIMS is available to Aboriginal groups, researchers and interested members of the public. Access may be restricted in some cases due to the sensitivity of some matters. DEC undertakes searches of AHIMS for a fee.

For more information, contact the AHIMS Registrar, Cultural Heritage Division, Hurstville on (02) 9585 6444.

Historic Heritage Information Management System (HHIMS)

DEC maintains information about recorded historic places on sites we manage. HHIMS holds details on the type and location of historic places, reports and other archival material. Access to HHIMS is available to researchers and interested members of the public.

For more information, contact the HHIMS Registrar, Cultural Heritage Division, Hurstville on (02) 9585 6444.

Registers

Protection of the Environment Operations Act (POEO) Public Register

The POEO Public Register is a register of environment protection licences and notices, any exemptions from the provisions of the Act or Regulations, details of convictions for offences under the Act and the results of civil proceedings.

For more information contact DEC Environment Line on 131 555 or email info@environment.nsw.gov.au. Also visit the Public Register on the DEC website free of charge.

Contaminated land

Copies of declarations, orders and notices issued under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997* are available at a cost of \$12. A full list or part-list of the regulatory instruments issued under the Act is available at a cost of \$12.

The register of contaminated sites is available on the DEC website for free. Alternatively, phone 131 555 or email info@environment.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Registers of:

- approvals, exemptions and determinations made under the Road and Rail Transport (Dangerous Goods) Act 1997
- Dangerous Goods Licences
- Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act Licences
- declared chemical wastes and chemical control orders under the Environmentally Hazardous Chemicals Act 1985

For more information on the above registers, contact DEC's Licensing and Registration Unit, Hazardous Materials and Radiation Section on 131 555 or (02) 9995 5412 or email info@environment.nsw.gov.au. The registers are also accessible on the DEC website free of charge.

Other registers

DEC holds registers of conservation agreements and interim protection orders, wilderness protection agreements, and a register of critical habitat declared under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. These are available at the DEC Hurstville office: phone (02) 9585 6444 for more information.

Section 151D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* also requires the agency to keep a register of information on every lease, easement or right of way granted on national parks and reserves. This register is available on the DEC website.

Other information services

A recorded message on air pollution, 'No burn' notices and 'Don't light tonight' advice is available on:

Sydney: 1300 130 520 Newcastle: 1800 817 838 Wollongong: 1800 819 112

The Beachwatch and Harbourwatch information line provides a daily summary of water quality conditions at ocean and harbour beaches: phone 1800 036 677. It advises the public on whether there is any risk of bacterial contamination from swimming beaches and harbours in Sydney, and the Hunter and Illawarra.

11. Freedom of information applications

,	2002-03*	2003–04	2004–05
FOI requests received:			
New (including transferred in)	83	92	132
Brought forward from previous period	6	9	12
Total to be processed	98	141	111
Completed requests	85	105	94
Requests transferred out	0	3	1
Withdrawn requests	4	17	9
Total processed	89	125	104
Unfinished requests (carried forward)	9	16	7
Result of FOI requests:			
Granted in full	39	38	59
Granted in part	39	51	15
Refused	7	16	20
Deferred	0	0	0
Consultations:			
Requests requiring formal consultation	59	61	64
Total consultations	217	248	337
Requests granted in part or refused – basis of disallowing o	r restricting access:		
s.19 application incomplete, wrongly directed	0	0	0
s.22 deposit not paid	0	2	6
s.25(1)(a1) diversion of resources	1	0	0
s.25(1)(a) exempt	48	54	26
s.25(1)(b), (c), (d) otherwise available	0	2	0
s.28(1)(b) documents not held	1	5	9
s.24(2) deemed refused, over 21 days	0	2	0
s.31(4) released to medical practitioner	0	0	0
Total	50	65	41
Costs and fees requests processed:			
Assessed costs	\$15,526	\$16,850	\$14,542
Fees received	n/a	\$15,292	\$14,285
Discounts allowed:			
Public interest	17	11	11
Financial hardship: pensioner/child	0	8	8
Financial hardship: non-profit organisation	0	3	2
Total	17	22	21

^{*} Combined NPWS and EPA statistics

 $^{^{\}star\star}$ Eighty FOI applications relating to three applicants were combined into three ADT proceedings.

12. Code of ethical conduct

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Director General's foreword

As a regulatory, scientific and land management agency, the integrity of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) is crucial to our effective performance. This helps us to achieve our broader environment protection, conservation and cultural heritage objectives. To retain community, stakeholder and government confidence, we must maintain the commitment of the whole organisation to the highest standards of probity in our programs and operations. I am committed to have a good ethical framework and culture that staff understand and support to foster and sustain our good public standing now and into the future.

The Executive is conscious of its responsibility to ensure that fair and ethical policies, systems and procedures are in place for all aspects of DEC's work. Equally important is the need to have effective and accessible mechanisms for identifying and responding to potentially unethical or corrupt conduct or practices as they arise.

All of DEC's staff and, in particular, managers are responsible for ensuring an ethical workplace is maintained. I encourage all managers to monitor their areas to identify and address situations which may lead to ethical dilemmas. Managers need to be open and accessible to staff and encourage them to discuss ethical issues and questions they face. They need to support and, where appropriate, protect staff who report, in good faith, instances of potentially unethical or corrupt practices.

Every one of us in DEC has an individual responsibility to uphold the agency's ethical values and reputation. We also have a corporate responsibility, that we take seriously, to discuss ethical behaviour, to provide avenues for staff to build their understanding and skills in ethics and to encourage good systems so staff can practise ethical behaviour. We each need to be aware of and carry out the principles contained in this Code of Ethical Conduct and work ethically and lawfully. Equally, we each have a duty to report potentially unethical or corrupt practices using the established mechanisms.

This Code of Ethical Conduct has been prepared to help us understand and carry out our ethical responsibilities.

LISA CORBYN Director General

Introduction

The ethics policies and framework of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) should be integrated into all aspects of our work. This commitment reflects the NSW Government's policy that:

The people of New South Wales have a right to expect the business of the state to be conducted with efficiency, fairness, impartiality and integrity.

Public employment carries with it a particular obligation to the public interest. It requires standards of professional behaviour from staff that promote and maintain public confidence and trust in the work of government agencies.

This Code of Ethical Conduct describes the ethical framework that should guide our actions, decisions and behaviour as DEC employees. It applies to everyone engaged by DEC, whether by permanent appointment, temporary appointment, on work experience, volunteer work or as contractors. DEC strongly supports this policy and is committed to maintaining a workforce that displays the highest standards of conduct and ethics through our diverse range of workplaces.

An ethical DEC

DEC strives to be an ethical organisation. This concept acknowledges that 'ethics' is not simply an individual responsibility — it is also a corporate responsibility. In practice, this means that DEC must have ethical policies, systems, procedures and practices for delivering its services and managing staff. There must also be appropriate management systems to assist in resolving ethical dilemmas as they arise and responding to unethical decisions and practices when they are identified.

Everyone in DEC has both an organisational and an individual responsibility to act ethically.

Director General and the Executive

The Director General and the Executive are responsible for:

- establishing and maintaining ethical policies, systems and procedures for all aspects of DEC work
- ensuring that staffing policies and practices are fair and equitable
- ensuring that mechanisms for responding to potentially unethical circumstances are appropriate and effective (e.g. grievance and complaint handling systems)
- ensuring that areas of work that are of inherently higher risk in terms of ethics and corruption are identified and that preventive strategies are in place
- monitoring the ethical health and culture of DEC and responding to any problems identified.

Managers

All DEC managers are responsible for:

- monitoring their workplaces to identify and address situations more likely to raise ethical dilemmas (e.g. by establishing good procedural guidance for decision-making, particularly the exercise of discretion)
- ensuring that staff are not placed in potentially difficult situations (e.g. by working alone in the field where they may face compromising situations)
- being available and supportive to staff who require guidance on ethical dilemmas
- fostering a work environment free of harassment, discrimination, victimisation, corruption, maladministration and waste
- ensuring that staff are aware of the principles contained in this Code of Ethical Conduct and the established systems and procedures for addressing ethical problems
- supporting and protecting staff who report, in good faith, instances of potentially unethical or corrupt practices
- ensuring that staff are treated fairly, equitably and in accordance with legislation and policy (e.g. access to training and other development possibilities).

All DEC staff

All staff have a duty:

- to act ethically, lawfully and in accordance with the principles contained in this Code of Ethical Conduct
- to report potentially unethical or corrupt practices via the established mechanisms.

Principles guiding personal and professional behaviour

DEC's corporate values

We have seven corporate values which shape the way we work. Together these values guide our actions as an organisation and our internal and external relationships.

1. Protect the environment

We are strongly committed to protecting the environment.

2. Respect Aboriginal culture and heritage

We respect Aboriginal knowledge and culture, both traditional and contemporary, and encourage and support Aboriginal peoples' involvement in our work.

3. Act with integrity

We are ethical, impartial and honest.

4. Be transparent

We are open, accessible and accountable to the community and with each other.

5. Act professionally

We treat our colleagues, our many external partners and other members of the community with respect. We base our decisions on facts, objective standards and analysis consistent with community values. We value our diversity of ideas and skills as the basis of selecting the best approach. Once a decision is made, we make a commitment to delivering that decision.

6. Work collaboratively

We collaborate with our colleagues and our external partners to deliver our goals.

7. Be innovative

We foster creative and inspirational thinking, and encourage learning and improvement.

Protect the environment

Protecting the environment is the fundamental value we stand for as an organisation. We do this through our Department's range of roles. We influence behaviour throughout the community to improve environmental outcomes while building knowledge, tools and policy frameworks for informing and improving decision-making by government and others. We minimise our environmental impact at work by reducing our consumption of paper, energy and fuel and by reusing resources.

Respect Aboriginal culture and heritage

Our approach will respect the special relationship Aboriginal peoples have with the landscape. We seek to enhance conservation efforts by recognising and preserving the involvement, knowledge and insight that Aboriginal peoples have of the land.

Act with integrity

Community confidence in DEC depends on the responsiveness, correctness, impartiality and quality of our actions and decisions. As DEC employees, we must always act in DEC's interest and not in our own personal interest, performing our duties honestly and lawfully at all times. We must try to avoid situations where conflict in our work as DEC officers and in our private lives might throw into question the integrity of DEC's decision-making. Where there is a potential conflict of interest, we must disclose this.

Be transparent

DEC's processes, policies and decision-making are intended and designed to be as clear and transparent as possible (subject to statutory and other legal confidentiality requirements). This principle applies internally for the benefit of staff as well as externally for the benefit of our stakeholders and clients. In both cases, people should be able to understand the steps that have been followed and the reasons for arriving at a particular conclusion or outcome. Our decisions must be fair, reasonable and appropriate, given the facts of the situation. Our decision-making processes should consider only relevant facts and must be supported by adequate documentation, data and information.

Act professionally

Acting professionally involves delivering high-quality decisions and service to stakeholders and clients. This should be achieved as effectively and efficiently as possible.

We should seek to understand and respect the expectations of the people we deal with and, where possible, to meet those expectations. If client expectations are unrealistic, we should explain why this is so and what is reasonable and deliverable. We should explain the decision-making steps and processes and provide an approximate time frame for completion.

It is important that we provide clear, accurate, current and complete information in a format that is easy for clients to understand. There could be significant legal consequences for DEC if we provide incorrect information in circumstances where clients could be expected to rely upon it. If you are unsure about the correct response to an information request, tell the client that you will make inquiries and inform them later

It is our responsibility to make the best use of our time and the resources made available to assist us with our work. To assist DEC in its on-going aim to achieve both individual and teambased improvements in performance, there is a responsibility to ensure that we keep up to date with changes and developments in our areas of expertise. We should also advise our supervisors of any areas or ways in which we believe improvements to efficiency or effectiveness could be made.

We should approach our work impartially, implementing the policies and decisions of the government of the day in a politically neutral manner regardless of our personal beliefs and opinions. Actions and decisions we take need to be in line with relevant legislative, industrial and administrative requirements.

Acting professionally also means that, although internally we have diverse views and robust debate about the best way to deal with an issue, we respect and act consistently with the final decision once it is made.

Work collaboratively

By working together within DEC and with our many external partners, we can often deliver better environmental, social and economic outcomes for the people of NSW. Our external partners include other NSW agencies, local councils and Commonwealth agencies, as well as a range of organisations within industry, environment groups, local communities and the scientific community. We work with these partners to deliver joint programs, help us achieve our goals or help them achieve their goals.

From an ethical perspective, we should be aware that working collaboratively is often essential for producing optimal outcomes. However, when considering whether and how to collaborate, we need to assess the benefits and costs involved. We must ensure that DEC resources are used efficiently and that our decisions are informed and focused on delivering desired results.

Be innovative

We should constantly be seeking new methods and means of improving the quality of our decision-making and service delivery. From an ethical perspective, this involves seeking new systems and procedures to ensure and enhance the integrity, transparency, professionalism, effectiveness and efficiency of our work.

Guide to ethical decision-making

There is no simple blueprint for identifying and dealing with ethical dilemmas. However, the following questions can help to determine whether difficult decisions or actions are proper and ethical:

- Is the decision or conduct lawful?
- Is the decision or conduct consistent with government policy and in line with DEC's corporate values, goals and Code of Ethical Conduct?
- What will be the outcome of the decision for us, our work colleagues, DEC and other parties?
- Do these outcomes raise a conflict of interest or lead to private gain at public expense (actual or perceived)?
- Can the decision or conduct be justified in terms of the public interest and would it withstand public scrutiny?
- Is the making of the decision or the undertaking of the action within the delegated authority for the position?

If there is still any concern as to whether the proposed action or decision is contrary to the Code of Ethical Conduct, we may need to consider the following options:

- Clarify matters with supervisors or other senior management. It may help to put the issues on paper.
- Give supervisors verbal and written advice of any concerns and implications of the decision or action to be taken.
- Document your actions on the issue.
- Seek advice from other officers not directly involved, such as other trusted senior officers. Corporate Governance Branch staff can also provide advice.
- Seek advice from appropriate external government agencies such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Ombudsman or the Auditor-General. ICAC has an advice line with a duty officer who is able to assist to work through ethical issues.

Significant ethical issues

This section provides guidance about how to deal with more commonly encountered ethical issues. This is not an exhaustive list and many other ethical situations are likely to be encountered at work. In all circumstances, if we are unsure how to respond to a situation, we should seek guidance.

Conflicts and disclosures of interest

The community, our clients, stakeholders and colleagues expect all DEC decisions to be impartial and not influenced by inappropriate considerations. It is corrupt behaviour to knowingly make a decision influenced by a conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest exists when it is possible that we can be influenced, or perceived to be influenced, by a personal interest when carrying out our duties.

If a conflict of interest exists, could arise or could be perceived by third parties to exist, the issue should be raised in writing with the relevant manager, who must then inform the Division's Executive member. Employees and their managers have a joint responsibility to avoid or resolve conflicts of interest.

Some examples of situations that may give rise to a conflict of interest and some of the options for dealing with them are detailed below:

- having a significant financial interest in a matter in which DEC is involved (e.g. holding shares in a company you are inspecting or which is the subject of a prosecution brief you are writing)
- having friends or relatives with a significant financial interest in a matter DEC deals with (e.g. if a friend or relative has tendered for a DEC contract, especially when you could potentially influence the outcome or use commercial-in-confidence information for insider trading)
- participating in a selection panel where a relative or friend has applied for the position
- employing friends or relatives on short-term contracts without undertaking proper selection processes
- allowing personal beliefs or attitudes, not related to your work, to influence the impartiality of any advice given
- having or developing personal relationships that go beyond the professional working level with DEC clients or stakeholders that we have dealings with, or people we are investigating or prosecuting on behalf of DEC
- having another job or other employment that may, or may appear to, compromise DEC's integrity or our integrity as DEC officers
- participating in political activities to do with, or making political comments about, DEC's work.

To resolve conflicts that arise, or could arise, staff, their managers and Executive members should consider the significance of the conflict and apply one of the following options:

- where the potential for conflict is minimal or can be eliminated by disclosure or effective supervision, record the details of the situation and take no further action
- dispose of the conflicting personal interest (e.g. sell the shares; give up the second job)
- do not participate in the particular task which may, or may appear to, raise a conflict of interest (e.g. we should declare our interest and not participate in any way in the selection process for a position or a tender which has attracted an application from a friend or relative)
- consider whether the conflict is significant enough to require transfer, either on a permanent or temporary basis, from the area of work where the conflict exists.

There will be circumstances where interests and potential conflicts are more likely to arise. For example, staff in remote areas may not be able to avoid sitting on a selection committee for a position that a friend or relative has applied for, if no other suitably qualified committee member is available. In these circumstances, you should discuss the matter with your Executive Director or Deputy Director General.

Aboriginal staff may face unique challenges as representatives and advocates for the Aboriginal community, while at the same time implementing government policy. Seek advice from senior managers if potential interests or conflicts arise.

Acceptance of gifts, benefits or hospitality

Offers of gifts, benefits or hospitality by any party that we have business dealings with create particularly delicate ethical dilemmas. The problem with such offers is that they may create a sense of obligation and even an expectation that something will be given in return. Feelings of obligation can undermine the impartiality of our decision-making. Even when there is no sense of obligation, the acceptance of gifts can create a perception that your impartiality is compromised.

Generally, we should not accept any gifts, benefits or hospitality offered in the course of our work.

Gifts of nominal value may be accepted. Such items may include inexpensive pens, notepaper, key rings or modest diaries that are promotional material broadly distributed by the provider. Modest and genuine working lunches, offered to a working group, are usually acceptable. Decline any offer that is individually targeted and not generally available to public employees or stakeholder participants.

We should respond to offers in the following manner:

- If we are offered significant items or benefits (including cash), after refusing them, take notes of the incident and refer the matter to our supervisors.
- If we consider that the offer was a bribe, or could have been a bribe, we should immediately refer the incident to supervisors who will then notify the Division's Executive member. Senior management will then determine how to conduct future relationships with the party offering the benefit. In significant cases, the police and ICAC may be informed.
- If a gift cannot be refused, and it is of more than nominal value, then the receiver should note details of the gift on DEC's gift register (located in Corporate Governance). Depending on the nature of the gift, it will then become the corporate property of DEC and be displayed, be donated to charity or otherwise disposed of, or be destroved.

Public comment on DEC's work

Public comment includes public speaking engagements, comments on radio, the Internet, email and television. Public comment also includes expressing views in letters to newspapers or in books, journals or notices or where it might be expected that publication or circulation of the comment would spread to the wider community.

There needs to be a clear distinction between any public comment made as a private citizen and that which is made as a government or DEC official (see Political and Community Participation below).

As private citizens, we have the right to make public comment and to enter into public debate on political and social issues. However, there are some circumstances when such public comment is inappropriate, such as where:

- we may be seen as being associated with DEC
- comment may be seen or interpreted as the official position of DFC
- comment may be seen or interpreted as a DEC officer criticising the policies and practices of the government of the day, the Minister for the Environment or DEC
- making a public comment would compromise our ability to carry out our duties in a competent and efficient manner

- comment would create the public perception that we are not prepared to implement or administer the policies and practices of the government of the day
- making a public comment would involve releasing confidential information, or any other information not publicly available, that is held by DEC.

To avoid any confusion, private citizen comments must not be made using any DEC resources (e.g. letterhead or email systems).

If the media contacts staff, they should not provide any comment on the issues raised unless specially authorised by DEC's media policy. Contact Public Affairs for advice.

Private submissions to proposals or inquiries

In general, DEC staff can exercise the right of all citizens to provide submissions to public inquiries or proposals, except those initiated by DEC. Input to DEC inquiries and submissions should be made via internal channels. However, there are some significant restrictions placed upon this right to avoid the possibility of compromising DEC:

- We should not present our views as being the views
- We should not use our positions with DEC to give greater status to our personal submissions.
- We should not release, paraphrase or otherwise use any confidential information, or any other information not publicly available, acquired in the course of our employment or otherwise held by DEC. This could jeopardise the future supply of information to DEC and may have detrimental legal consequences.
- We should not use any DEC resources when producing our private submissions.

Political and community participation

As private citizens, staff have the right to be members of political parties and other political, special interest or community groups. However, it is necessary to consider whether involvement as members of such groups could lead to an actual or perceived conflict of interest and have an impact on DEC's reputation. As public employees, our primary duty is to serve the government of the day in a politically neutral manner. We need to maintain Ministerial and public confidence in the impartiality of the actions and advice of public employees.

Staff must inform their Executive Director, through their manager, as soon as they become aware that a potential conflict has occurred or might occur. Depending on the circumstances, affected staff may choose to stop a particular political or community activity or, if possible, withdraw from the area of work where the conflict is occurring.

Special arrangements apply to public employees who are contesting state or federal elections. Details of these arrangements are given in sections 102 and 103 of the *Public* Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

Public release of information

DEC supports public participation and transparency of decision-making. We assume that the information upon which we base our decisions will be publicly available. However, if our work involves access to confidential, sensitive, personal, commercial or political information, we need to guard against disclosing this information without clear authority. Unauthorised disclosures may harm individuals or organisations or provide an improper advantage to other parties. In this regard, staff should be careful not to release private information relating to fellow staff and clients, such as home addresses and private phone numbers.

The integrity and credibility of DEC may be damaged if the agency appears unable to keep its information secure. It is our responsibility to make sure that unauthorised people cannot access confidential information in any form, including computer files and emails. We should discuss sensitive information only with people inside or outside DEC who are authorised to have access to the information.

DEC releases information in various formats, including reports, brochures, booklets and advice, both in print and on the Internet. We can provide official information, when requested, that is already available to members of the public. However, other official information or documents should only be provided when:

- it is a normal part of the job and proper authority exists to provide the information
- it is a requirement to do so by law, e.g. subpoenas or requests under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 (refer requests to DEC's Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer)
- staff are called to give evidence in court.

In these cases, comments should be restricted to the facts and should not, as far as possible, express an opinion on official policy or practice unless required to do so (e.g. when being examined in court).

If it is not clear whether information is in the public domain, seek advice from managers or an appropriate senior officer in the Corporate Governance Branch.

When information sought is not in the public domain, seek advice from one of the FOI Officers in the Corporate Governance Branch about FOI procedures.

Use of public resources

Public resources include finances, equipment, people and information. As they are all publicly funded, it is important to ensure that DEC resources are directed toward the performance of DEC's public duties. In particular:

- ensure that DEC's facilities and equipment are used appropriately and efficiently
- ensure others do not use facilities and equipment inappropriately or inefficiently
- be effective and economical in the management of our own work time and others' time
- have proper authorisation when incurring expenditure on behalf of DEC
- do not use DEC's information for personal or other improper purposes.

Using DEC facilities and equipment for private purposes is not permitted, apart from a few limited circumstances. It may be acceptable to make minor use of some work facilities or equipment for private purposes. The use should involve minimal cost and time for DEC. In general, prior approval is required from directors, managers, senior field officers or other appropriate reporting officers.

DEC managers, or higher staff positions, may authorise the use of DEC office facilities, such as meeting rooms and equipment, for activities and meetings involving community or other voluntary organisations.

Sustainability issues at work

DEC is committed to being a model organisation in adopting sustainability principles. 'Sustainability' in this context refers to the environmental, social and economic aspects of how we do our work. It incorporates our current environmental strategies on waste and energy reduction as well as our social programs.

Our commitment to sustainability benefits staff and the community. It also reflects a number of government policies and directions that promote various elements of sustainability. These policies include the government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy, the Energy Management Policy and the Procurement Policy.

We are encouraged to be actively involved in our sustainability program and to apply the principles and recommended actions contained within our sustainability agenda. These principles and actions are reflected in existing DEC plans and programs. They will be progressively updated and integrated to reflect our greater commitment to a more holistic sustainability approach.

Ethics of professions

Some staff are members of a profession, e.g. lawyers, engineers, accountants and chemists. They may be required, or choose, to be a member of a relevant professional organisation. Those organisations may have a professional code of ethics or code of conduct that members are expected to uphold. In some cases, failing to uphold the code may mean that members are unable to practise their profession.

We need to be aware of the existence and impact of professional codes of ethics as they relate to DEC corporate values. DEC's Code of Ethical Conduct should not be in conflict with those professional codes. However, if conflicts do arise, they should be brought to the attention of supervisors. Managers will respect the professional ethics staff may have to comply with and will not expect them to act in a contrary manner.

Other employment or business interests

When considering new employment or business interests outside DEC, or if you have just joined DEC and already have a second job, it is necessary to consider whether work performance for DEC could be adversely affected and whether there is any potential for a conflict of interest.

Employees covered by the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002* must obtain written approval from management prior to accepting a second job, or if you already have a second job, continuing with it. The relevant delegated officer can approve outside employment or business interests that do not involve an apparent conflict of interest. Human Resources can provide information on who holds the appropriate delegation in your circumstances. Requests will be assessed on the basis of whether or not the second job could have an adverse impact on employees' work for DEC.

Any employment situations that involve, or have the potential to involve, a conflict of interest must always be referred to the Director General. Approvals given for outside employment should be reviewed each year. All areas should establish and maintain a register to record secondary employment declarations and approval details. Those details must be forwarded to Human Resources where a central register is maintained.

Even though some employees are not covered by the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002*, for example, contractors and agency temporary staff, the same principles apply — we need to consider whether outside employment or business could have an adverse impact on work for DEC.

Employment after leaving DEC and dealing with former employees

Particular care should be taken to avoid allowing decisions and actions to be influenced by plans for, or offers of, employment outside DEC. If we allow ourselves to be influenced in this way, we will be creating a conflict of interest and risking our own and DEC's integrity.

Obtaining employment with an organisation that has a business relationship with DEC, or is regulated by DEC, creates a difficult ethical situation. In this circumstance, it would be unethical to release, use or otherwise take advantage of confidential or sensitive information we had access to while a DEC employee. We must also respect DEC's intellectual property rights over material it has produced. This means not using or profiting from such information unless it becomes publicly available.

On leaving DEC, we must return all equipment and resources issued including access cards, any DEC records or other information, and library books that may have been taken away from work.

When dealing with former DEC employees, we must make sure that we do not give them, or appear to give them, favourable treatment or access to information that is not publicly available.

DEC employees charged with criminal offences

Staff who may have been charged with a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more must immediately advise their Executive member, through their reporting officer. Human Resources Branch will be consulted for advice as to what actions may have to occur.

There are minor charges that staff may face. If the offence is not punishable by 12 months or more imprisonment, it should only be reported if it is possibly connected to, or has a bearing on employment with DEC.

For example, in most circumstances a traffic infringement normally would not need to be reported, even if work involves driving on a regular basis. However, if the infringement results in a driving licence suspension and work involves driving, then the offence will have a bearing on our employment with DEC. We would need to inform our reporting officer.

As another example, if the offence involved misappropriation of funds and the work to be performed with DEC involves authorising expenditure, then the offence could have a bearing on work and must be reported.

Action taken by DEC will depend on:

- the nature and circumstances of the alleged crime
- its relevance to the work to be performed
- any mitigating factors.

These factors will determine not only what action, if any, is taken by DEC in the event of a conviction, but also whether any action should be taken pending the outcome of the legal proceedings. If there are any doubts or concerns about whether to report an offence, we should contact the Human Resources Branch to discuss the matter in confidence.

Working with children

Some work in DEC falls within the requirements of child protection legislation because it involves unsupervised contact with children. The *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* and the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998* are designed to ensure that people who may pose a risk to children do not work with children. The legislation means that for some positions, DEC staff and volunteers will be required to undergo a 'working with children' check.

Staff in certain positions may be asked to provide a declaration about whether they have any convictions for child-related offences, or have faced disciplinary proceedings that involve children. When a declaration is made, DEC will contact other departments to confirm the advice. It is important to notify your reporting officer if your work involves unsupervised access to children and you face proceedings that might fall within the child protection legislation. For information about the working with children, see www.kids.nsw.gov.au.

Staff's appearance when representing DEC can reflect on the agency. Where uniforms are provided, it is important to bear in mind that they associate us with DEC even when we are not at work. In some circumstances, it may not be appropriate or advisable to wear the uniform outside work hours. For example, it would not be appropriate to wear the uniform to a political protest because it may lead to our personal views being taken as those of DEC.

Uniform and non uniform dress in all workplaces, especially where we can be viewed by members of the public, should meet the community's expectations for professional service delivery.

Drug, alcohol and other personal problems

It is our responsibility to make sure that alcohol and drugs do not impair work performance or the safety or performance of others. Similarly, we must inform supervisors if we are taking medication that may affect work.

If we experience problems affecting work or home life, we have access to the Employee Assistance Program to provide free professional, confidential counselling services to DEC staff and members of our immediate family. We can be assured of complete confidentiality as DEC is not told about who uses the service or the individual matters discussed. For an appointment, phone toll free 1300 366 789.

Information technology usage

Premier's Circular 99-9 requires all NSW public sector agencies to ensure that IT resources are used appropriately. We need to ensure that:

- computer resources are used for DEC business purposes
- pornographic, sexually explicit and other offensive or defamatory material is not accessed or sent
- the security of our IT systems is maintained to prevent access to confidential information by unauthorised people
- the integrity of DEC data and IT systems is maintained.

We must understand and comply with the following protection requirements:

- Access to the Internet and email services is provided for DEC business use.
- Using DEC's computer resources to seek out, access or send any material of an offensive, obscene, pornographic, threatening, abusive or defamatory nature is prohibited.
- Unauthorised or unacceptable use of DEC's computer resources may result in disciplinary action.
- Passwords must be memorised and kept secret. They are not to be written down or disclosed to any other person, including a supervisor or fellow worker.
- Unauthorised computer software is not to be downloaded to DEC computer equipment.

- Access to the Internet should be via officially approved mechanisms only.
- DEC may monitor computer systems.
- Only limited personal use is permitted.

DEC's Network Acceptable Use Policy is available on DEC's intranet for staff access.

Discrimination and harassment

Harassment of, or unfair discrimination against, staff or members of the public is not acceptable in any circumstances, or for any reason including:

- gender
- physical appearance
- marital status
- pregnancy
- age
- race
- ethnic or national origin
- physical or intellectual impairment
- sexual preference
- religious or political conviction
- carers' responsibilities.

Examples of harassment include:

- verbal abuse or threats
- unwelcome remarks, jokes, innuendoes or taunting about a person's body, attire, marital status, sex, pregnancy, ethnic or national origin, sexual lifestyle or disability
- displaying or electronically transmitting sexually suggestive, racist or other offensive or derogatory material
- physical intimidation
- practical jokes which may cause awkwardness or embarrassment
- persistent and unwelcome invitations, requests or intimidation
- leering and/or other offensive gestures
- persistent and unwelcome physical contact such as patting, pinching, punching or touching.

Instances of harassment or unfair discrimination should be reported to your manager or other senior officer — see the Human Resources document, Reaching Resolution — Resolving Workplace Grievances (DEC staff access only), and the NSW Personnel Handbook (available from NSW Premier's Department website) for further guidance.

Reporting and assessing unethical and corrupt conduct

Protected disclosures

We have a responsibility to report any instances of corruption, maladministration and waste by public officials or other public employees. We are protected when we make such reports by the terms of the *Protected Disclosures Act 1994*.

The Act provides certain protection against reprisals for employees who voluntarily report such matters either to nominated Disclosure Officers, the Director General, the Director Corporate Governance (who is the DEC's Disclosure Coordinator) or to one of three investigative bodies (ICAC, the Ombudsman or the Auditor-General). Such protection does not apply for vexatious or malicious allegations.

DEC is strongly committed to the aims and objectives of the Act and has established a protected disclosure reporting system that is designed to encourage and protect such disclosures.

If staff provide information about possible corruption, maladministration or waste, but for whatever reason elect not to make a formal protected disclosure, DEC will still provide similar protections to those provided by the Protected Disclosure Act (except where the allegations are vexatious or malicious).

Grievance procedures

We all have the right to complain about and seek resolution of our concerns about DEC decisions or actions that affect us, interpersonal conflicts with other staff, or issues such as harassment and bullying. There are established procedures to deal with such grievances while protecting the interests of all parties involved. For more information, contact Human Resources Branch.

Complaints

Complaints usually arise because of client dissatisfaction with the quality of our service or where they do not agree with our actions or decisions. Generally, if the complaint is routine it may be resolved locally. However, if the complainant alleges potential corruption or other significant issues (e.g. service delivery system problems) they will be investigated more formally. In these circumstances, or for general information, contact Corporate Governance Branch.

Also see DEC's *Guidelines for Handling Complaints and Internal Investigations* on the DEC website.

Compliance with this code

We are all expected to foster an ethical and equitable work environment, free of harassment, discrimination, victimisation, corruption, maladministration and waste.

As individuals, we are ultimately responsible for our own acts, omissions and behaviour.

As managers, we should be role models for staff and our behaviour must be beyond reproach. It is our responsibility to ensure that staff under our supervision understand their duties, performance expectations and the ethical principles contained in this Code. We are accountable for identifying and correcting any behaviour that occurs in our workplaces that is contrary to the Code of Ethical Conduct. Supervisors are expected to take immediate and appropriate steps to address any apparent

problems, as well as to implement preventive and awareness measures, such as training, to deal with harassment and discrimination. Managers should seek guidance, if necessary, from their own managers or senior staff in Human Resources Branch.

Acting contrary to the principles contained in this Code may lead to disciplinary action by DEC. Disciplinary action may include counselling, official notice of unsatisfactory performance, dismissal or prosecution.

Legislation, awards and policies applying to staff

As DEC employees, our rights are set out under the relevant employment laws as well as under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002* and local award arrangements, and associated NSW public service and DEC policies and procedures.

The main legislation, industrial instruments, policies and directions relevant to us as DEC employees include:

- staff and administrative notices
- DEC procedure guides
- responsibilities included in the legislation administered by DEC
- NSW Personnel Handbook
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1977
- Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998
- Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998
- Crimes Act 1900
- Freedom of Information Act 1989
- Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988
- Industrial Relations Act 1996
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and relevant DEC policies
- Ombudsman Act 1994
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
- Protected Disclosures Act 1994
- Public Finance and Audit Act 1983
- Public Sector Employment and Management Act 2002.

Conclusion

DEC is committed to maintaining a workforce characterised by the highest standards of conduct and ethics. Ultimately, we are all responsible for maintaining standards that inspire public confidence and trust in the work of DEC. This Code of Ethical Conduct is intended to assist us in undertaking our duties in an ethical, professional manner. However, if staff are unsure of the appropriate course of action in a particular circumstance, you should discuss the matter with your reporting officer in the first instance. If this is not practical, you can contact your manager or director. Staff in the Corporate Governance Branch will also provide general advice about ethical issues and procedures.

July 2005

13. Environment Line statistics

The following table shows a detailed breakdown of calls to DEC's environment information service, Environment Line (formerly Pollution Line), over the last five years. See page 5 for more information about Environment Line. Calls received about national parks and conservation issues are not included.

Calls to Environment Line for information by subject area

Subject		000-01		001–02		002–03		003-04		004-05
	%	No.								
Air	14	6,555	19	7,127	15	6,020	16	6,224	14	5,570
Beachwatch	0.4	182	0.3	100	0.4	161	0.2	77	0.2	74
Chemicals	5.3	2,408	5.1	1,963	6.3	2,528	8.0	3,112	9.4	3,641
Corporate	12	5,492	9.3	3,581	9.5	3,812	11	4,084	12	4,660
Land	6.9	3,125	6.5	2,505	8.0	3,210	8.0	3,112	5.7	2,202
Lead	1.5	681	1.5	561	1.2	482	0.8	311	0.8	296
Legal	5.0	2,262	5.0	1,910	5.0	2,006	6.0	2,334	6.3	2,446
Noise	14	6,141	15	5,763	15	5,819	14	5,602	16	6,193
Our Environment — It's a Living Thing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.3	923	0.6	234	0.2	70
Pesticides	3.6	1,653	3.6	1,391	4.2	1,685	3.7	1,439	4.5	1,752
Radiation	1.9	877	1.9	742	2.0	802	1.3	506	1.2	464
Recycling	3.0	1,354	2.0	772	1.8	722	2.0	777	1.8	697
SOE sales	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	51
Waste	17	7,531	15	5,898	15	6,020	15	5,835	15	5,838
Water	7.5	3,402	6.7	2,582	7.4	2,970	7.5	2,917	6.9	2,669
Water – stormwater	8.3	3,761	9.2	3,527	7.4	2,970	6.0	2,334	5.8	2,275
Total	100	45,424	100	38,422	100	40,130	100	38,898	100	38,898

Calls to Environment Line reporting pollution incidents by type

Subject	2	000–01	20	001–02	20	002–03	2	003–04	20	004–05
	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
Air	15	2,109	12	1,292	10	1,079	10	1,051	11	1,078
Air – odour	38	5,218	47	5,315	40	4,248	30	3,191	33	3,238
Chemicals – waste	4.5	622	3.5	391	3.0	324	4.3	451	4.2	405
Chemicals – hazardous waste	1.9	256	1.5	172	1.3	141	2.1	218	1.9	180
Chemicals – illegal dumping	n/a	n/a	0.5	53	1.3	138	1.3	138	0.9	92
Chemicals – toxic spills	0.7	95	0.4	44	0.3	34	0.7	74	0.3	33
Contaminated land	0.2	32	0.2	21	0.3	30	0.2	26	0.2	23
Noise	3.7	511	3.0	336	4.6	492	3.3	346	4.1	393
Noise – scheduled premises	10.4	1,432	7.1	794	7.2	763	11	1,123	11	1,045
Pesticides	3.0	408	2.0	228	2.5	261	2.9	308	3.4	331
Radiation	<0.1	4	<0.1	1	0.1	6	0.1	7	<0.1	2
Threatened species	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<0.1	4
Water	12	1,632	12	1,373	12	1,230	11	1,199	13	1,292
Water – algae	0.2	34	0.2	20	0.5	51	0.3	30	0.2	17
Water – fish kills	1.1	158	1.0	110	0.9	96	0.8	87	0.7	67
Water – oil spills	2.5	342	1.4	161	1.9	201	2.0	210	1.6	153
Water – stormwater	6.5	894	8.2	917	14	1,535	19	2,036	14	1,343
Total	100	13,747	100	11,228	100	10,629	100	10,495	100	9,696

DEC published the following documents in 2004–05 in a number of formats including print and online.

Corporate publications

DEC Annual Report 2003-04

DEC Corporate Plan 2004-06

Environmental Trust Annual Report 2003-04

Implementation of the Pesticides Act 1999: Report to the Minister for the Environment by the Pesticides Implementation Committee

Radiation Advisory Council Annual Report 2003-04

State of the Parks 2004

State of the Parks 2004: Management action — managing parks better

Summary of Affairs of the Department of Environment and Conservation (June 2005)

Discussion papers and draft plans

Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (Draft)

Consultation Statement: Preferred resource recovery practices by local councils

Draft Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Groundwater Contamination

Draft Kosciuszko National Park Hut Conservation Strategy

Living Parks: A draft sustainable visitation strategy for NSW national parks – Invitation to comment

Regulatory Impact Statement: Proposed Amendment Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2002

Guidelines and advisory documents

Better Practice Guide for Public Place Recycling

Contaminated Sites: Guidelines for assessing former orchards and market gardens

Courses for Radiation Licensing Purposes: Guidance for course providers seeking approval

Does Your Project Make a Difference? A guide to evaluating environmental education projects and programs

Environmental Best Management Practice Guideline for Concreting Contractors

Environmental Guidelines: Assessment, classification and management of liquid and non-liquid wastes (reprint)

Environmental Guidelines: Use of effluent by irrigation

Environmental Management on the Urban Fringe: Economic incentives for environmental management

Environmental Management on the Urban Fringe: Environmental assessment

Environmental Management on the Urban Fringe: Horse properties on the rural urban fringe

Environmental Management on the Urban Fringe: Property management plan

EPA Prosecution Guidelines (revision)

Guidance Note: Assessing the application of residue wastes to land

Guidance Note: Assessment of non-standard fuels

Guidance Notes for Councils: Desalination plants

Guidelines for the Burning of Biomaterial: Record keeping and reporting requirements

Guidelines to Assist Reporting for the WRAPP Progress Report 2003–05

Hygiene Protocol for the Control of Diseases in Captive Snakes

Information for Pest Management Technicians

Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants

Load Calculation Protocol (February 2005)

Load Reduction Agreements

Manual for the Identification of Aboriginal Remains

Planning Activities to Protect our Places and Country: A guide for Aboriginal communities

Radiation Guideline 1: Monitoring devices

Radiation Guideline 2: Preparation of radiation safety manuals

Recovering Bushland on the Cumberland Plain: Best practice quidelines for the management and restoration of bushland

Reducing the Risk of Herbicides in Compost

Reducing Soil Erosion with Compost Materials

Sustainable Landscaping Using Compost Material

Talk to Print: A step-by-step guide for publishing oral histories

User Guide for Councils: Model waste and recycling contracts

Working with Local Aboriginal Communities on Environmental Projects

Environmental and technical reports

Aboriginal Women's Heritage: Bourke

Aboriginal Women's Heritage: Nambucca

Aboriginal Women's Heritage: Port Stephens

Aboriginal Women's Heritage: Wollongong

Ambient Air Quality Research Project (1996–2001) Internal Working Paper No: 2: Ambient concentrations of organic

compounds in NSW

Assessment of Garden Organics Collection Systems

Assessment of Garden Organics Collection Systems: Summary

Benefits of Recycling: Excel™ calculator

Benefits of Recycling: Report

Benefits of Recycling: Summary

Botany Groundwater Clean-up Project

Comprehensive Coastal Assessment: Aboriginal cultural heritage data audit

Consultation Statement: Preferred resource recovery practices by local councils

Controlling Animal Pests in NSW National Parks

Environmental Compliance Report: Wood preservation industry — Part C final report

Getting More From Our Recycling Systems: An overview

Getting More From Our Systems: Recycling and garden organics

Markets for Recycled Organics in NSW

Native Vegetation of the Nattai and Bargo Reserves

New South Wales Litter Report 2004

Northern Journeys: Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area — Monundilla and Mellong sectors

Ocean Shores to Desert Dunes: The native vegetation of NSW and the ACT $\,$

Organics Recycling Offers Major Environmental Benefits

Pest and Weed Management Operational Plan: Warragamba and Blue Mountains Special Areas 2004–09

Recognition and Management of Endangered Ecological Communities in the South-east Corner of NSW

Recycle IT! A computer collection pilot

Report on the Implementation of the NSW Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2004

Systematic Survey of Vertebrate Fauna in Lane Cove National Park

The Vertebrate Fauna of Kanangra-Boyd National Park

The Vertebrate Fauna of South-western Blue Mountains National Park

The Vertebrate Fauna of Nattai and Bargo Reserves

The Vertebrate Fauna of Wollondilly River Nature Reserve Using Compost in Roadside Landscaping

Fire management plans and strategies Draft plans and strategies

Draft Abercrombie River National Park Fire Management Plan

Draft Barool National Park Fire Management Strategy

Draft Benambra National Park and Tabletop Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy and Operations Map

Draft Booroolong Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy

Draft Butterleaf National Park Fire Management Strategy

Draft Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan

Draft Indwarra National Park and The Basin Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy

Draft Ironbark Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy

Draft Jaaningga Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy

Draft Kings Plains National Park Fire Management Strategy

Draft Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Garigal National Park Fire Management Plan

Draft Lane Cove National Park Fire Management Plan

Draft Mann River Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy

Draft Single National Park Fire Management Strategy

Draft Ulandra Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy and Operations Map

Draft Warra National Park Fire Management Strategy

Draft Warrabah National Park Fire Management Strategy

Draft Washpool National Park (Curramore) Fire Management Strategy

Draft Wollemi National Park Fire Management Plan 2005–2010

Draft Yarriabini National Park Fire Management Strategy

Approved plans and strategies

Arakwal National Park and Study Area (Arakwal National Park and Key Adjoining Crown, Council and Other Lands) Fire Management Strategy

Benambra National Park and Tabletop Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy and Operations Map

Ben Boyd National Park including Bellbird Creek Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan

Blue Mountains National Park Fire Management Strategy

Bournda National Park including Bournda Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan

Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve Fire Management Plan

Mimosa Rocks National Park Fire Management Strategy

Ulandra Nature Reserve Fire Management Strategy and Operations Map

Plans of management

Draft plans

Draft Arakwal National Park Plan of Management

Draft Bago Bluff National Park Plan of Management

Draft Berkeley Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Bimberamala National Park Plan of Management

Draft Black Andrew Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Burnt School and Strike-a-Light Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Draft Carrai National Park and Carrai State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Draft Cuumbeun Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Clybucca Historic Site Plan of Management

Draft Five Islands Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Gardens of Stone National Park Plan of Management

Draft Hattons Corner Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Hortons Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Jingellic, Clarkes Hill and Bogandyera Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Draft Lennox Head Aboriginal Area Plan of Management

Draft Maynggu Ganai Historic Site Wellington Valley 1823–44 Conservation Management Plan

Draft Mount Dowling Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Mount Kaputar National Park Plan of Management

Draft Mudjarn Nature Reserve (Pine Mountain) Plan of Management

Draft Mulgoa Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Narrawallee Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft South East Forests National Park and Egan Peaks Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Stony Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Draft Tomaree National Park Plan of Management

Draft Turon National Park Plan of Management

Draft Valla and Jagun Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Draft Wanna Wanna Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Approved plans

Benambra National Park and Tabletop Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Biriwal Bulga National Park and Weelah Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Careunga Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Dooragan National Park Plan of Management

Flaggy Creek and Tallawudjah Nature Reserves Plan of Management

Flagstaff Memorial Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Gibraltar Range Group of Parks (incorporating Barool, Capoompeta, Gibraltar Range, Nymboida and Washpool National Parks and Nymboida and Washpool State Conservation Areas) Plan of Management

Imbota Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Ironbark Nature Reserve and Bornhardtia Voluntary Conservation Area Plan of Management

Kelly's Cottage and Precinct Conservation Management Plan, Budderoo National Park Final Report 2004

Kings Plains National Park Plan of Management

Lake Macquarie State Recreation Area, Pulbah Island Nature Reserve and Moon Island Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Middle Brother National Park Plan of Management

Midkin Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Minjary National Park Plan of Management

Parks and Reserves of the Tweed Caldera (incorporating Mt Warning, Border Ranges, Mebbin, Nightcap, Mt Jerusalem and Goonengerry National Parks and Limpinwood, Numinbah and Snows Gully Nature Reserves) Plan of Management

Planchonella Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Towarri National Park, Wingen Maid Nature Reserve and Cedar Brush Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Watsons Creek Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Yanununbeyan National Park, Nature Reserve and State Conservation Area Plan of Management

Yarravel and Skillion Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Yessabah Nature Reserve Plan of Management

Recovery plans

Draft plans

Draft Calotis moorei Recovery Plan

Draft Corchorus cunninghamii Recovery Plan

Draft Fontainea oraria (Coastal Fontainea) NSW and National Recovery Plan

Draft Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea* (Lesson 1829) Recovery Plan

Draft Large Forest Owls (Powerful Owl, Sooty Owl and Masked Owl) Recovery Plan

Draft *Olearia flocktoniae* (Dorrigo Daisy Bush) NSW and National Recovery Plan

Draft Persoonia nutans R.Br. (Nodding Geebung) Recovery Plan

Draft Pimelea spicata R.Br. NSW and National Recovery Plan

Draft Quassia spp. (Moonee Quassia) Recovery Plan

Draft Southern Bell Frog (Litoria raniformis) Recovery Plan

Draft Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*) Recovery Plan

Draft Zieria ingramii Recovery Plan

Draft Zieria obcordata Recovery Plan

Approved plans

Daphnandra sp. C 'Illawarra' (Illawarra Socketwood) Recovery Plan

Darwinia biflora (Cheel) Briggs Myrtaceae Recovery Plan

Davidson's Plum (*Davidsonia jerseyana*) Recovery Plan

Grevillea beadleana NSW and National Recovery Plan

Grevillea caleyi R.Br. (Proteaceae) Recovery Plan

Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens Endangered Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) Population Recovery Plan

Irenepharsus trypherus (Illawarra Irene) Recovery Plan

Nightcap Oak (*Eidothea hardeniana*) NSW and National Recovery Plan

Ripple-leaf Muttonwood (*Rapanae* species A Richmond River) Recovery Plan

Zieria granulata (Illawarra Zieria) Recovery Plan

Education and community relations

Aboriginal People Protecting Country: Environmental sustainability success stories

Action for Air: Proceedings of the NSW Clean Air Forum

Beachwatch and Harbourwatch: State of the beaches 2003-04

Beachwatch Partnership Pilot Program: State of the beaches 2003–04

Cleaner Industry Case Studies:

- Aircraft manufacturer flying high with cleaner production
- Cleaner 'business as usual' for supply chain and logistics company
- Cleaner production a conduit for sustainability
- Cleaner way forward for anodising company
- Cleaning the way to a sustainable future
- Concrete recycling scheme ideal solution for waste
- Dairy gains for the environment through increased productivity
- Dairy profits from planning and innovation
- Diving deep in search of a sustainable future
- Green printing reaps dividends
- Industrial estate cleans up over \$1.2 million in annual savings
- Ozone company cleans up in the laundry
- Recycled timber dunnage a win for the shipping industry
- Search for a 'better way' boosts efficiency for a whole industry
- Virtual manufacturing big saving opportunities for tooling industry
- Water heater company turns up the heat on cleaner production.

Danger: Dust and Fume Hazard – Do-it-yourself safely

Echo Point Walking Tracks Guide

Environment Matters 28: Pesticides Act 1999 – Your responsibilities (revision)

Environment Matters 32: New law for keeping records of the pesticides you use (reprint)

Environment Matters 40: New law for training people who use pesticides in their work (reprint)

Getting More From Our Recycling Systems: An overview, assessment of domestic waste and recycling systems

Getting More From Our Recycling Systems: An overview, good practice performance measures for kerbside recycling systems

Getting More From Our Resource Recovery Systems

Glenbrook and the Eastern Blue Mountains Walking Tracks Guide

Grand Canyon Walking Tracks Guide

Grose Valley Walking Tracks Guide

Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme Credit Auction: 2004 auction report

Katoomba-Leura Walking Tracks Guide

Mountain Journeys

NSW Bushfire Communication and Education Strategy

NSW Park Facilities Manual 2005

Pete, the Lord Howe Island Placostyle

Radiation Accidents: Information for employers

Radiation Licence Exemptions: Information for employers

Revitalising Sydney's National Parks: NSW Government budget commitments 2005–08

The Drain is Just for Rain: Did it work? Summary report on the evaluation of the NSW Urban Stormwater Education Program

2005 Guide to NSW National Parks

Wentworth Falls Walking Tracks Guide

Wild About Whales

Brochures, booklets and leaflets

Be a Backyard Buddy: Get enjoyment from our native plants and animals (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Help frogs survive in the concrete jungle (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Help keep the tawny frogmouth safe in your local area (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Help look after the laughing kookaburra (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Help skinks thrive in your backyard (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Help the little penguins at Manly (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Make your backyard blue tongue friendly (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Make your garden friendlier for superb fairy wrens (reprint)

Be a Backyard Buddy: Make your neighbourhood friendlier for eastern rosellas (reprint)

Beachwatch Programs: Improving beach water quality in NSW (reprint)

Brush Turkeys

Conserving Biodiversity: Threatened Species Legislation Amendment Act 2004

DEC Website (information flyer)

Getting More From Our Resource Recovery Systems: Model waste and recycling contracts

Hawkesbury Tracks Activities

Investing in Our Catchments: Water quality and river health

Is Your Fire Legal?

Living Parks: Conserve, explore, experience

Living With Fire

Recovering Bushland on the Cumberland Plain: What we can

Recycle IT! A computer collection pilot summary report

Safely Disposing of Asbestos Waste from Your Home

Stormwater Pollution: The difference is you (reprint)

Trials to Improve Water Quality in Catchments Using Compost Materials

Two Ways Together: Aboriginal culture and heritage in NSW Whale Species Identification

New or revised parks and reserves brochures

National parks

Abercrombie River, Belford, Blue Mountains, Botany Bay, Bouddi, Brisbane Water, Coolah Tops, Dharug, Gardens of Stone, Garigal, Goulburn River, Kanangra-Boyd, Ku-ring-gai Chase, Kamay Botany Bay, Kwiambal, Lane Cove, Popran, Royal, Wallarah, Watagans, Werakata, Wollemi, Wyrrabalong, Yengo

Nature reserves

Munghorn Gap, Tuggerah Lakes, Wamberal Lagoon, Wambina

Other

Berowra Valley Regional Park, Hartley Historic Site, Dunns Swamp camping and day-use area, llawarra reserves, Jilliby SCA, Lake Macquarie SCA, Munmorah SCA, Yellomundee Regional Park

Newsletters and magazines

Environmental Education Matters: NSW Council on Environmental Education newsletter (one issue)

Working With Local Government Towards a Sustainable Future (two issues)

Posters

Australian Parrots, Lorikeets and Cockatoos

Birds of Prey

Get Your Mob Involved in Protecting Our Places

Living With Fire

Recovering Bushland on the Cumberland Plain

15. Papers published

Aistrope, M, Hyne, RV and Pablo, F (2004), 'A passive sampler device for measuring time-integrated concentrations of polar pesticides in water', *Abstracts of Interact 2004*, RACI and ASE Conference, Gold Coast, Queensland, 4–8 July.

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Auld, TD and Denham, AJ (2005), 'A technique to estimate the pre-fire depth of burial of *Grevillea* seeds using seedlings after fire', *Australian Journal of Botany*, vol. 53, 1–5.

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16. Overseas visits by staff

Name	Project/purpose	Destination	Cost to DEC	Notes
Peter Barley	One year international exchange program with Environment Agency of England and Wales	United Kingdom	\$700	
Lynden Bartrim and Terry Korn	Participate in set-up of the East Timor Protected Areas Assistance Program	East Timor	\$7,212	
Ann Butler	One year international exchange program with Department of Conservation, New Zealand	New Zealand	\$14,660	
Donna Campbell	Attend International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) conference	Marrakech, Morocco	\$2,940	Other costs met by officer
Nicholas Conner	Attend the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Water and Nature Economics Program Workshop, 'Integrating Wetland Economic Values into River Basin Management'	Sri Lanka	Nil	Costs met by IUCN
David Featherston	Present paper on environmental regulation of the Sydney Olympics at International Environment Forum	Beijing, China	\$550	Other costs met by Beijing Municipal Government
David Featherston	Present paper at International Forum on the Construction and Operation of Olympic Stadiums	Beijing, China	\$490	Other costs met by Beijing Municipal Government
Simon Ferrier	Presentation at a Ecological Modelling for Applied Sciences meeting	USA	Nil	Funded by NASA
George Foster and Peter Burfitt	Pre-purchase inspection and test flight for helicopter	New Zealand	\$5,771	
Steve Fuller	Visit to US Forensic and Homeland Security	California, Atlanta, Virginia, Maryland and Washington, USA	\$4,000	Other costs met by Agilent Technologies
Gerry Gillespie	Attend and present at annual general meeting of Asian Network of Organic Recyclers (ANOR), Japan; keynote speaker at International Organic Symposium, China	Akita, Japan and Hangzhou, China	Nil	Costs met by ANOR (Japan) and Zhejiang University (China)
Ken Green	Attend UNESCO Mountain Research Initiative Conference	Scotland	\$5,000	
David Hebblewaite	Consultant to Hydrosult Inc. on the Vietnam Water Resource Coordination Project	Hanoi, Vietnam	Nil	Hydrosult Inc.
Kieran Horkan and Niall Johnston	Conduct seminar at the Mekong River Commission	Vientiane, Laos	Nil	Costs met by officers
Niall Johnston	Present paper at a training course on Control of Land Contamination and Soil Remediation	Singapore	Nil	Costs met by officer
Paul Mahon and Andrew Leys	Attend 13th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference	Wellington, New Zealand	\$3,610	
Louisa Mamouney	Attend the National Mitigation and Conservation Banking Conference	North Carolina, USA	\$6,490	

Name	Project/purpose	Destination	Cost to DEC	Notes
David Nicholson	Participate in the Leadership on Environment and Sustainable Development program run by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in conjunction with Tongji University	Shanghai, China	Nil	Costs met by UNEP and the officer
Robert Pressey	Attend and advise the Science Advisory Workshop for Boreal Ecosystems Analysis for Conservation Networks (BEACONs)	Vancouver, Canada	Nil	Costs met by officer
Robert Pressey	Present two papers at the Society for Conservation Biology annual meeting	New York, USA	Nil	Costs met by WWF International, Conservation International and Museu Goeldi, Brazil
Robert Pressey and Malcolm Ridges	Present paper and facilitate at meeting of the Amazon River and Floodplain Ecoregion Working Group	Manaus, Brazil	Nil	Costs met by WWF Brazil
Mike Sharpin	Attend stormwater workshop	Auckland, New Zealand	\$1,500	
Penny Spoelder	Attend residential school as part of the Australian and New Zealand School of Government Master of Public Administration program	New Zealand	Nil	Funded by Premier's Department
James White	Attend and present paper at international seminar 'Benefits Transfer and Valuation Databases: Are We Heading in the Right Direction?'	Washington, USA	\$1,700	Other costs met by Environment Canada

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